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Lee et al.

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(54) **WIRELESS POWER TRANSMITTER AND WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER METHOD THEREOF IN MANY-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H01F 37/00 (2006.01)
H01F 38/00 (2006.01)
H02J 7/00 (2006.01)
H02J 7/02 (2006.01)
H02J 7/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H02J 7/00** (2013.01); **H02J 7/0027** (2013.01); **H02J 7/025** (2013.01); **H02J 7/045** (2013.01); **H02J 7/047** (2013.01); **H02J 7/0004** (2013.01); **H02J 2007/0096** (2013.01); **Y02B 40/90** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H02J 7/00; H02J 7/0004; H02J 7/0027; H02J 7/045; H02J 7/047; H02J 2007/0096; H02J 7/025; Y02B 40/90

USPC 307/104
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wireless power transmitter for transmitting power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal and a wireless power transfer method thereof are capable of optimizing transmission efficiency for a plurality of wireless power receivers, by deciding an optimal transmission parameter (especially, a frequency corresponding to the wireless power signal or a resonant frequency) for the plurality of wireless power receivers based on control errors received from the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, via respective time slots allocated to the plurality of wireless power receivers.

23 Claims, 25 Drawing Sheets

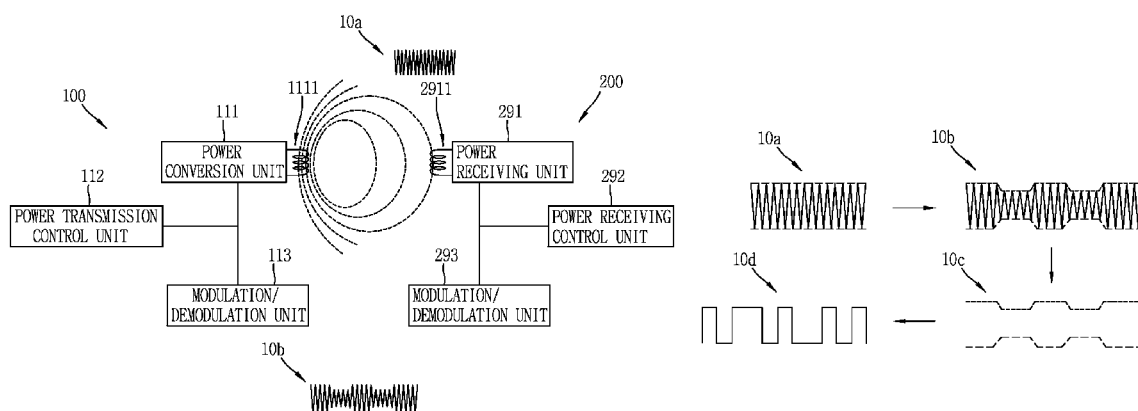


FIG. 1



FIG. 2A

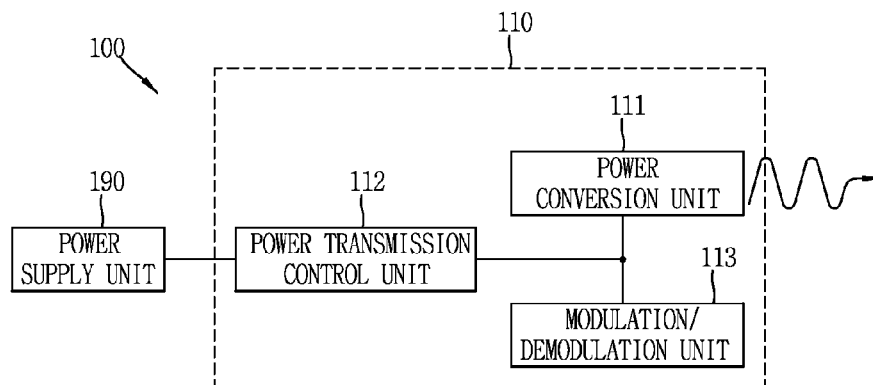


FIG. 2B

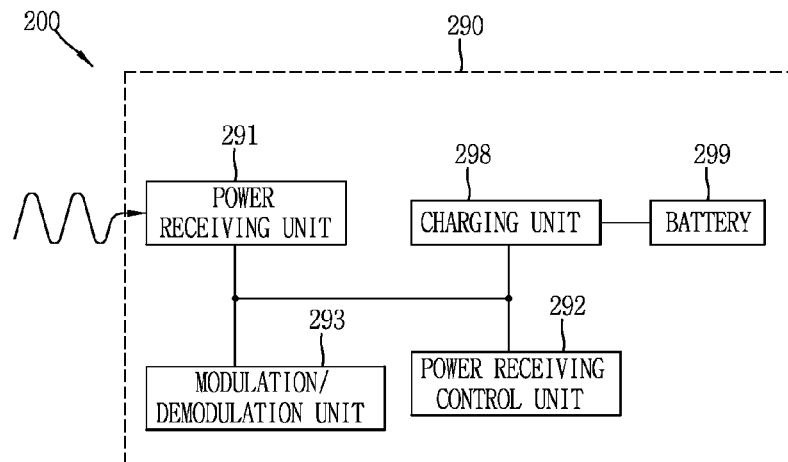


FIG. 3

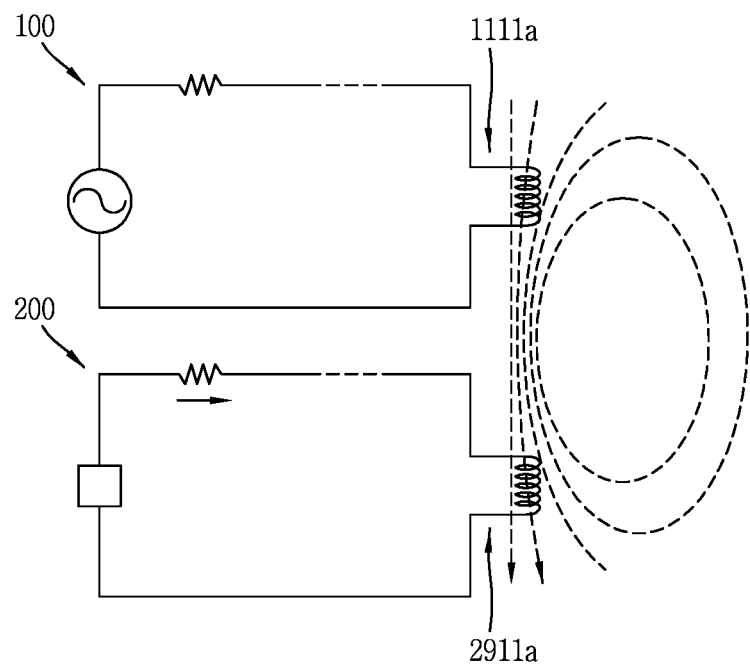


FIG. 4A

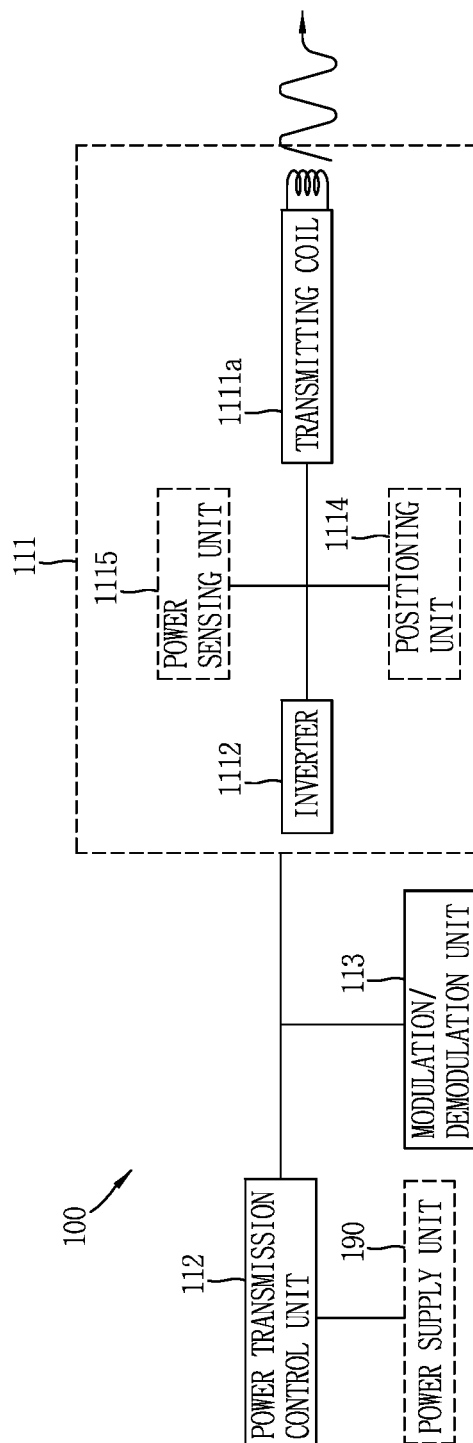


FIG. 4B

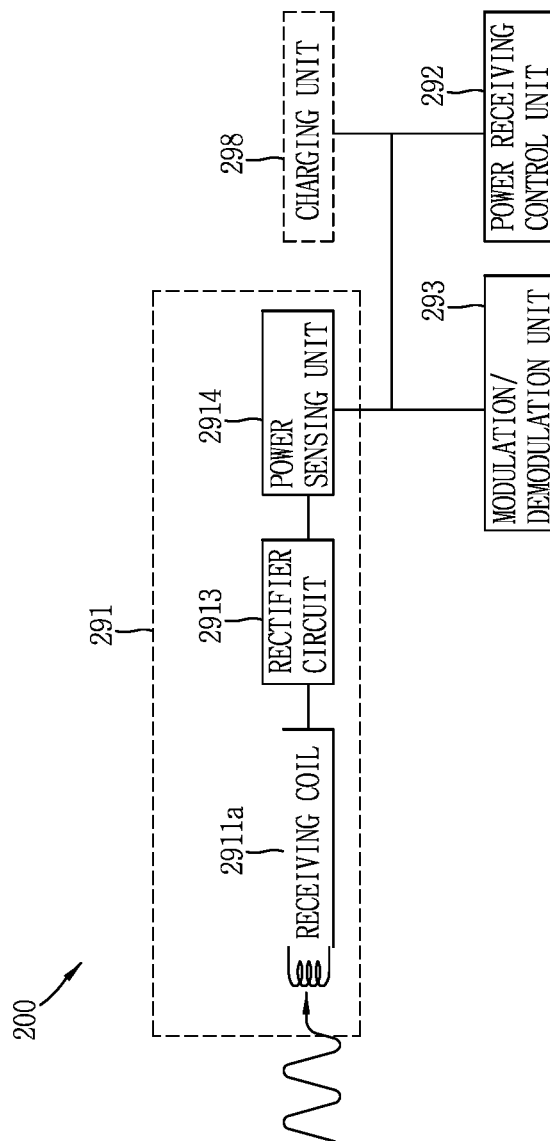


FIG. 5

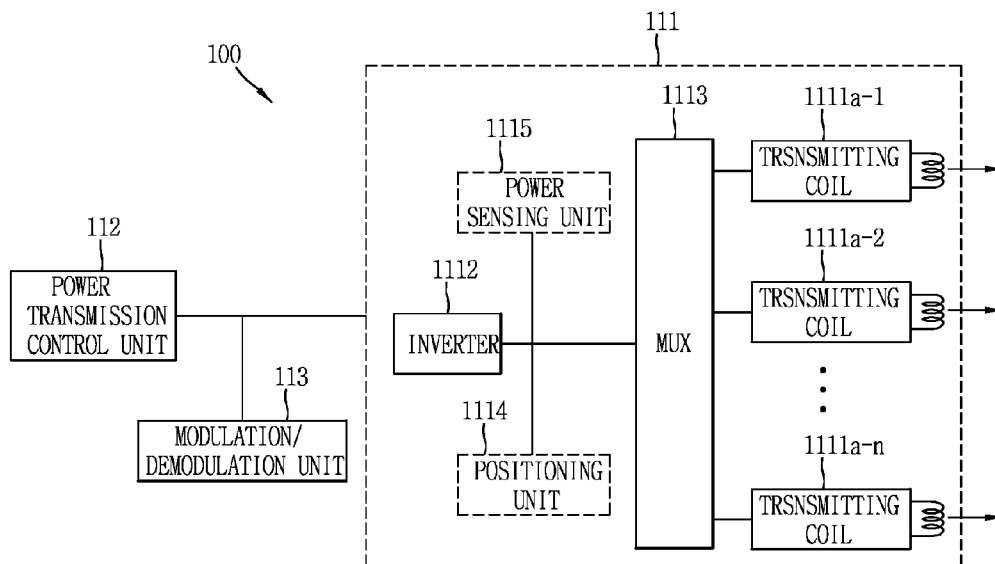


FIG. 6

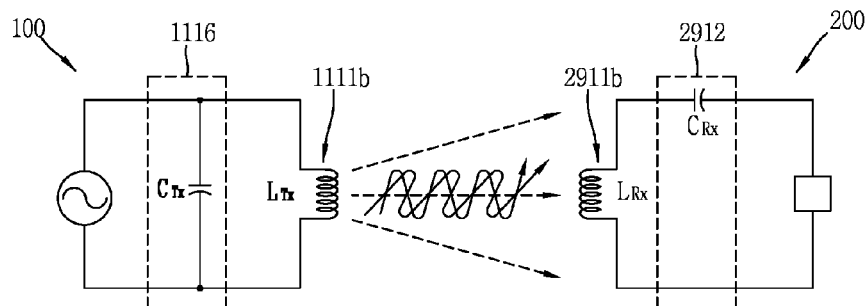


FIG. 7A

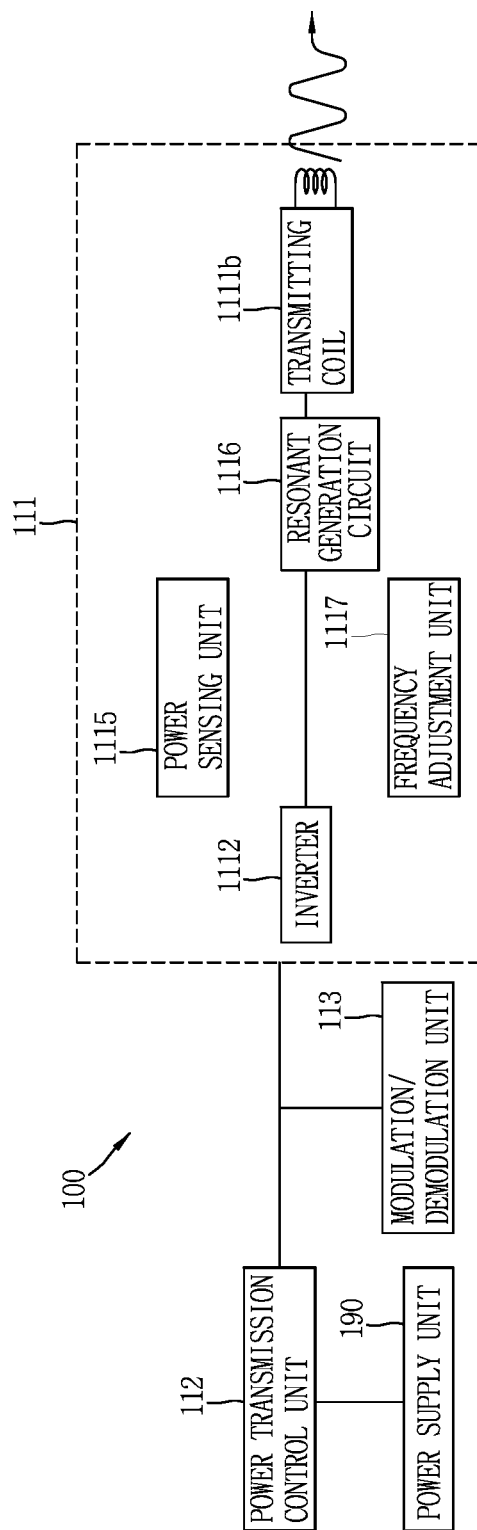


FIG. 7B

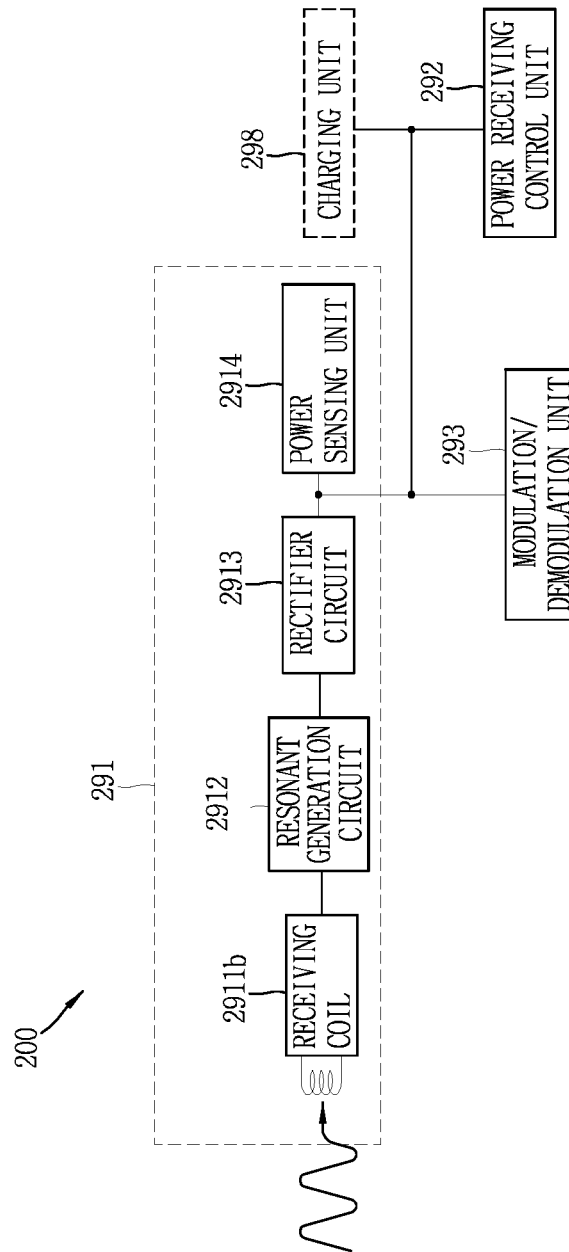


FIG. 8

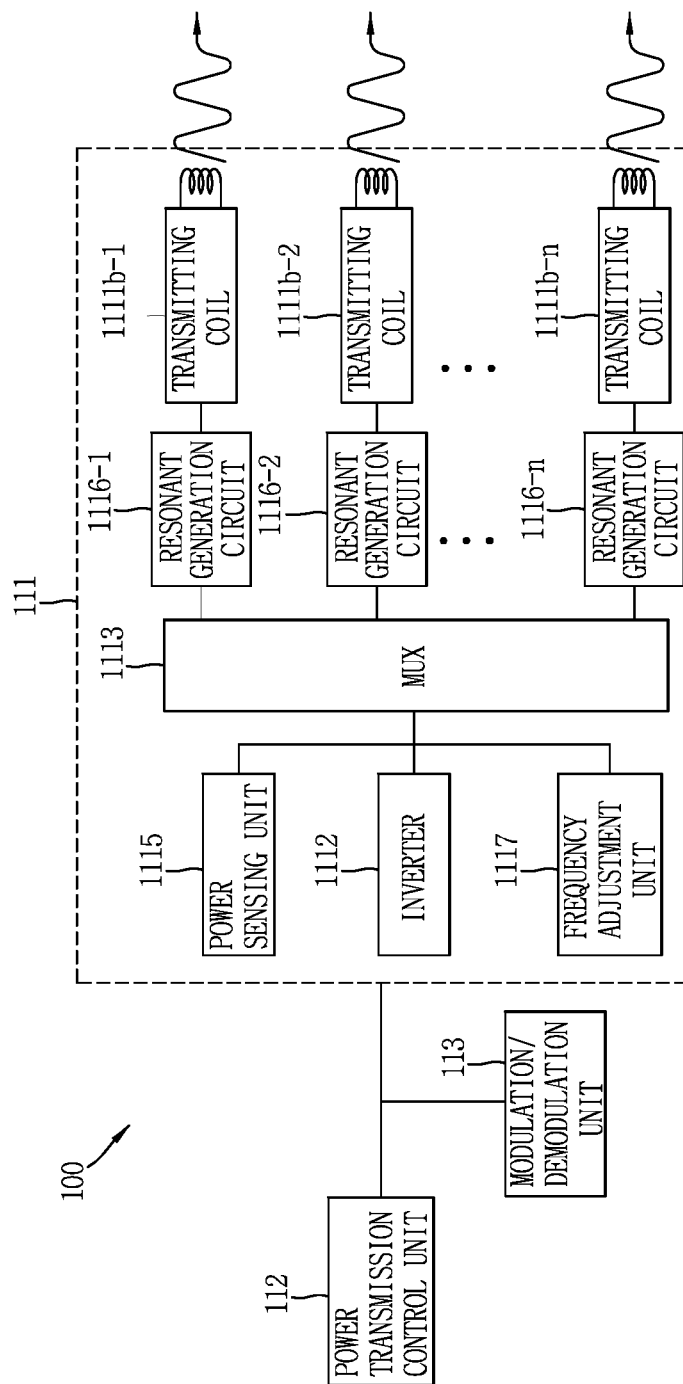


FIG. 9

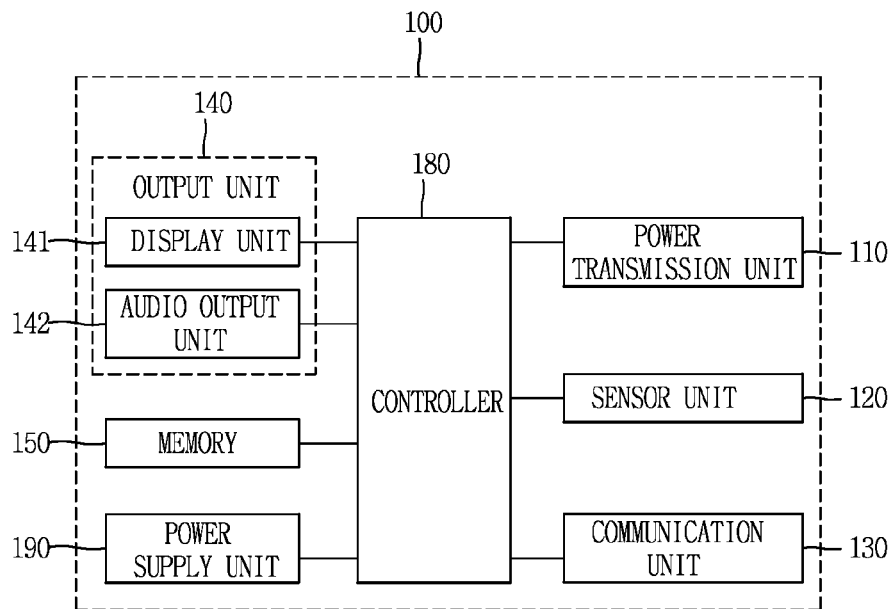


FIG. 10

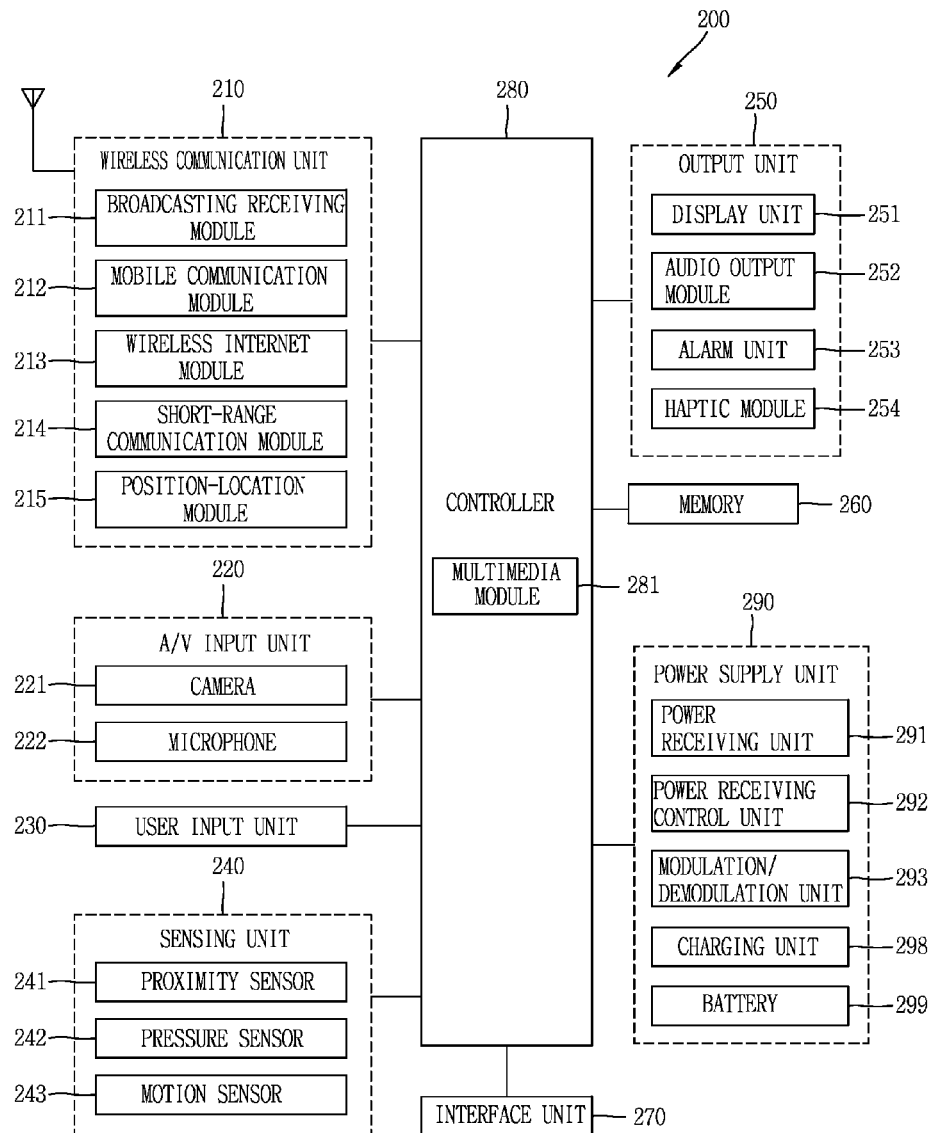


FIG. 11A

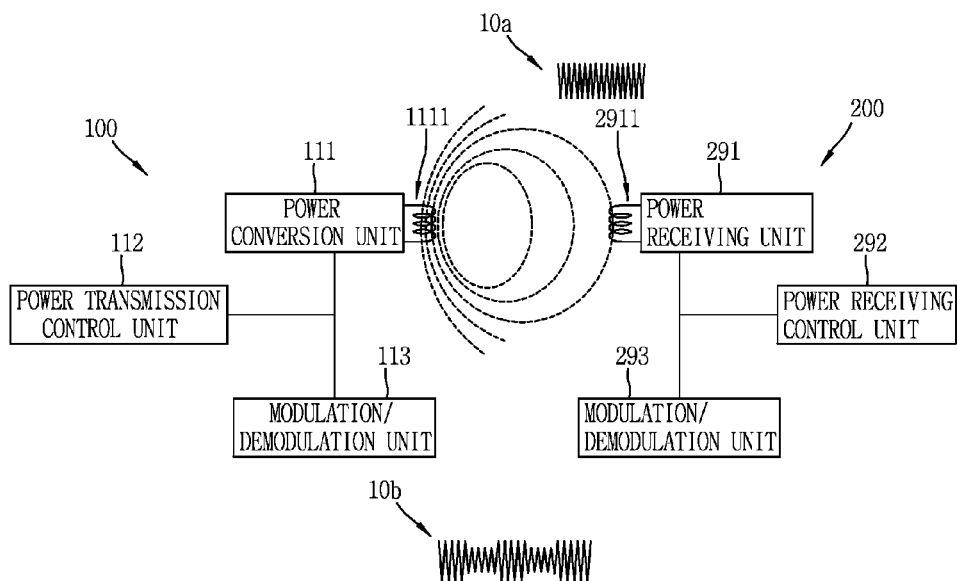


FIG. 11B

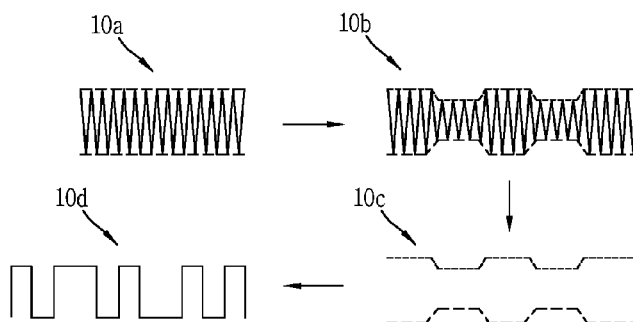


FIG. 12A

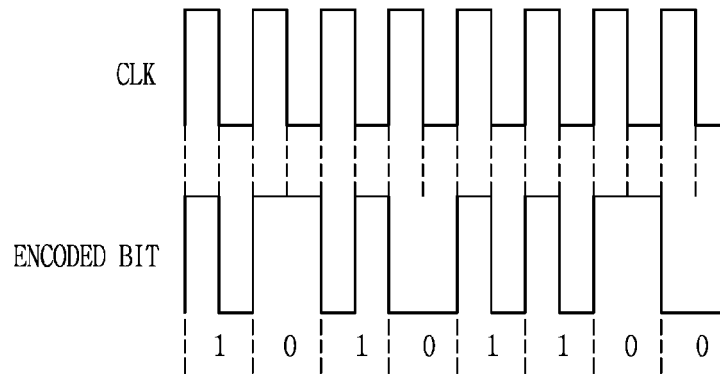


FIG. 12B

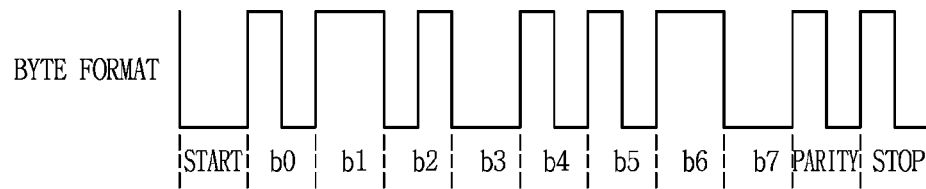


FIG. 13

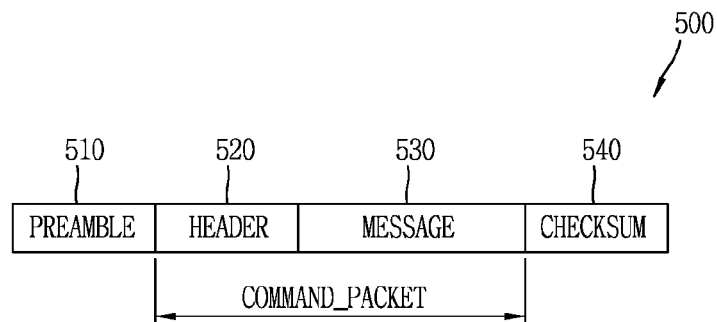


FIG. 14

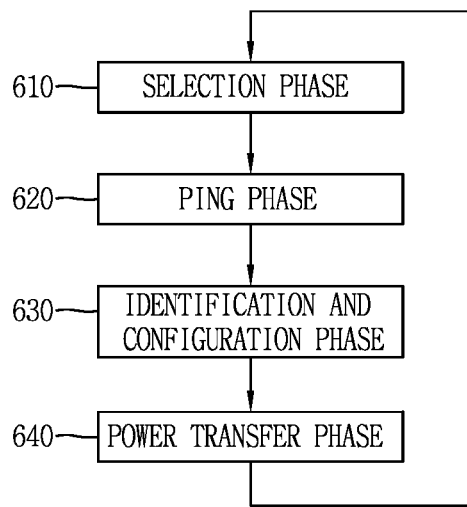


FIG. 15

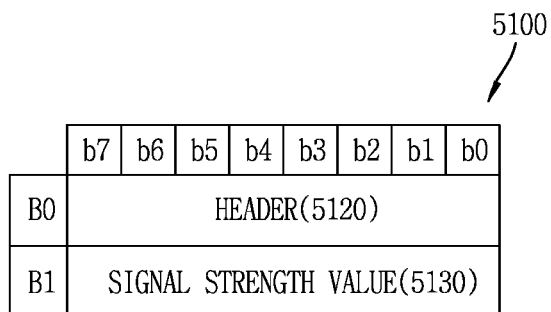


FIG. 16A

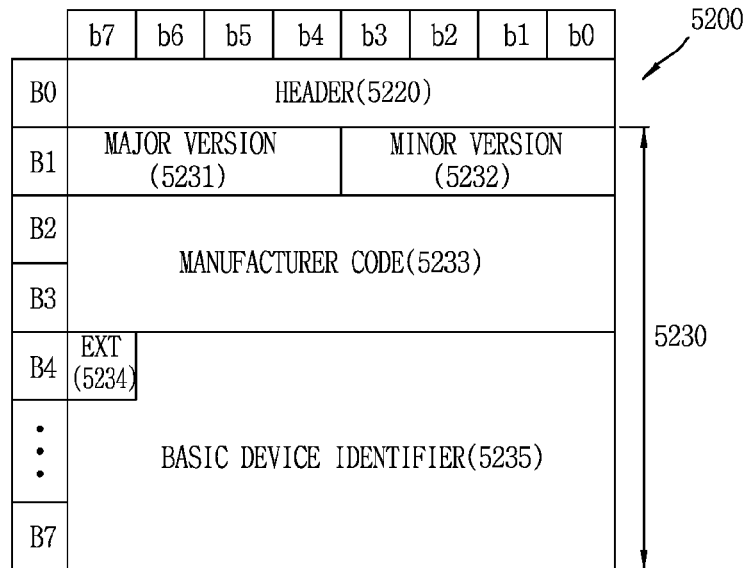


FIG. 16B

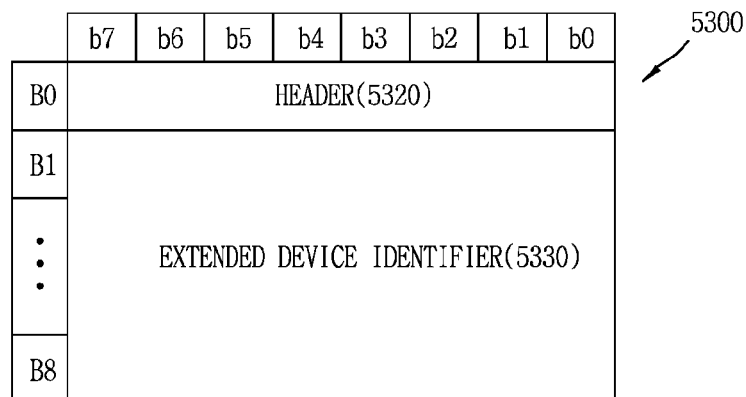


FIG. 17

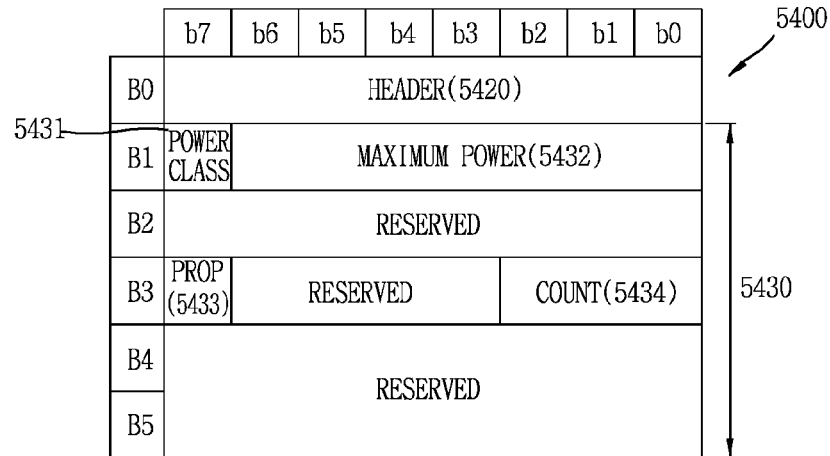


FIG. 18

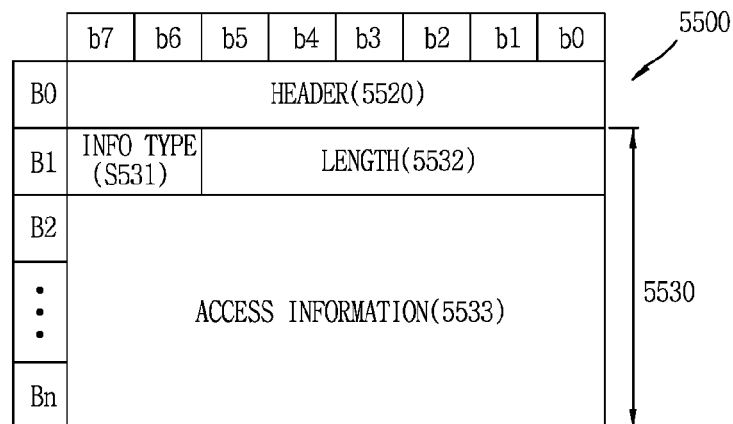


FIG. 19

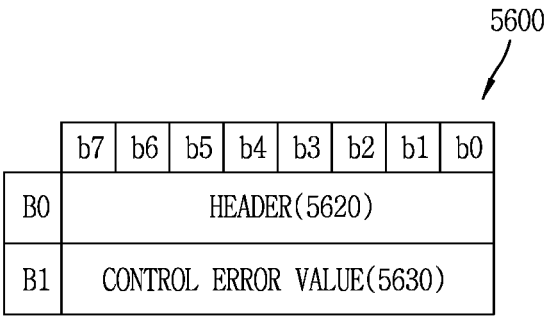


FIG. 20A

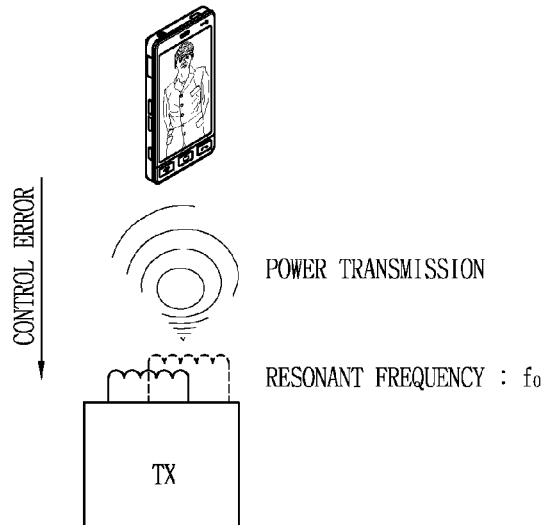


FIG. 20B

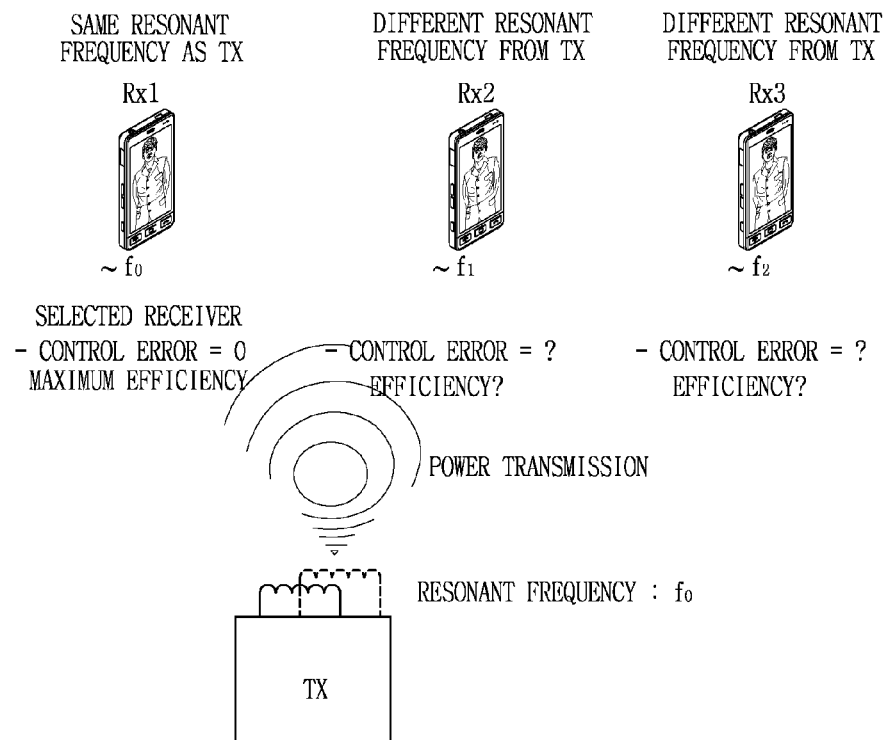


FIG. 21

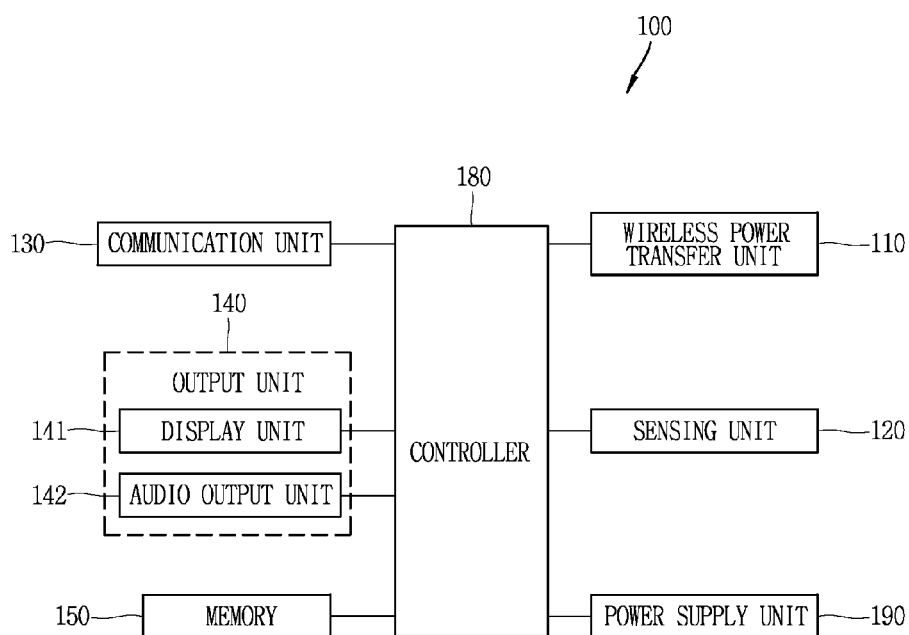


FIG. 22

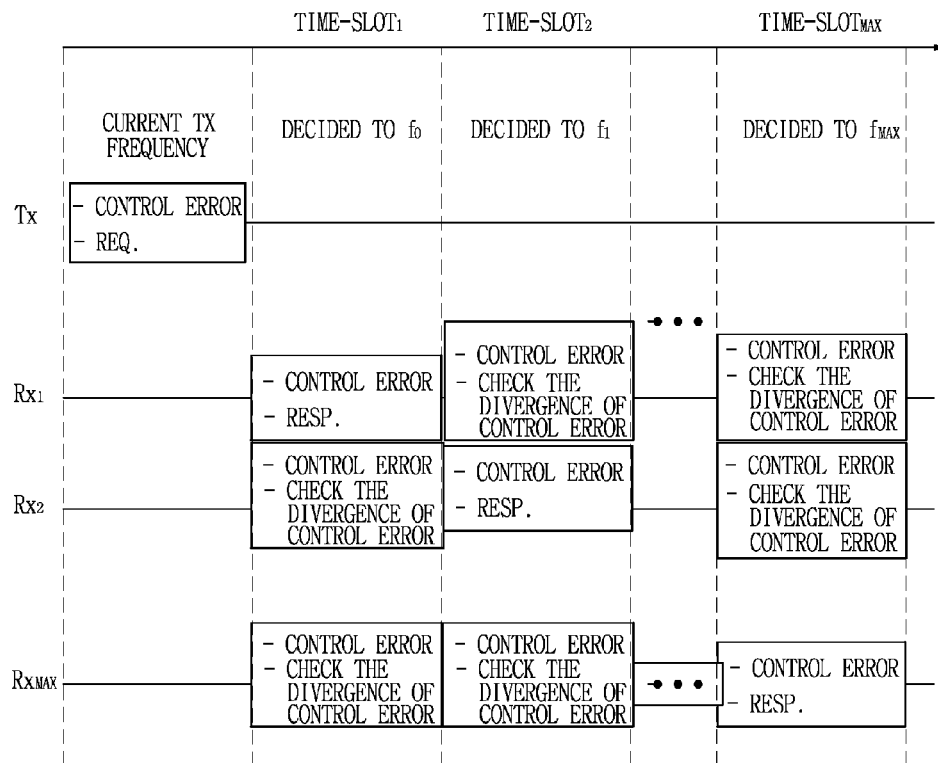


FIG. 23

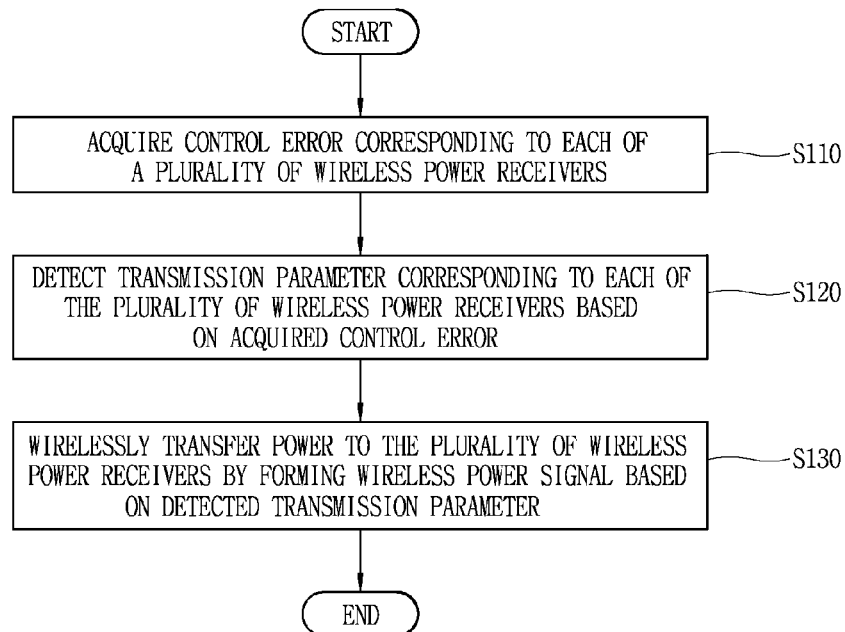


FIG. 24

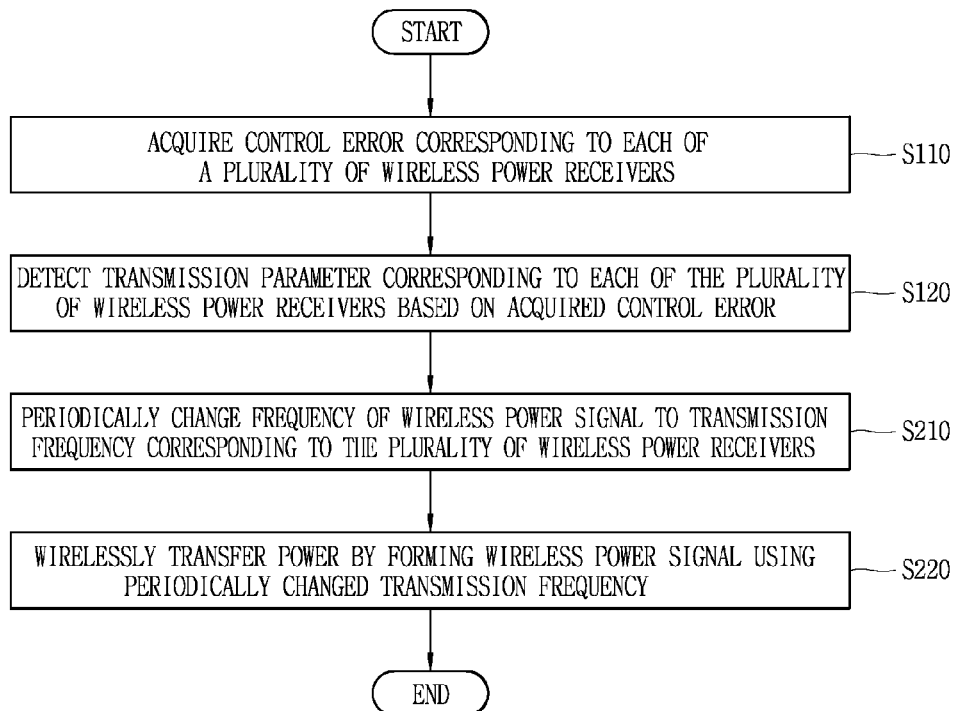


FIG. 25

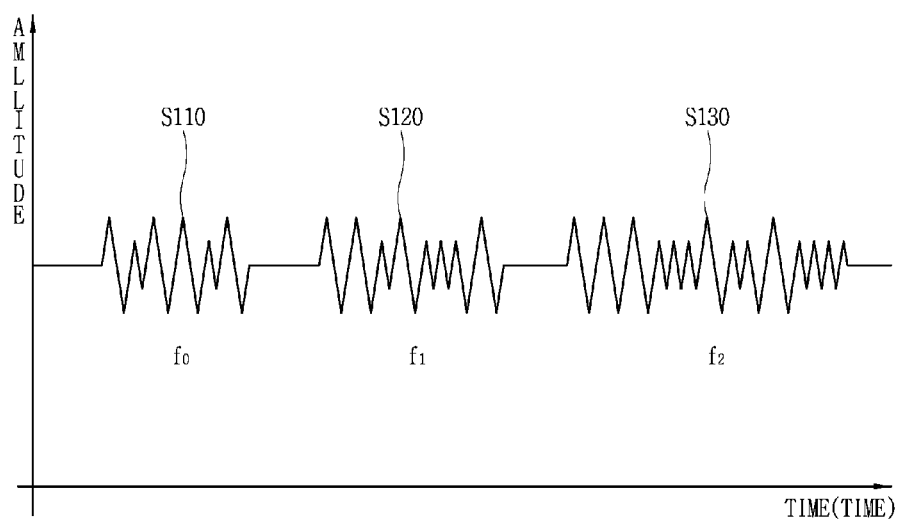


FIG. 26

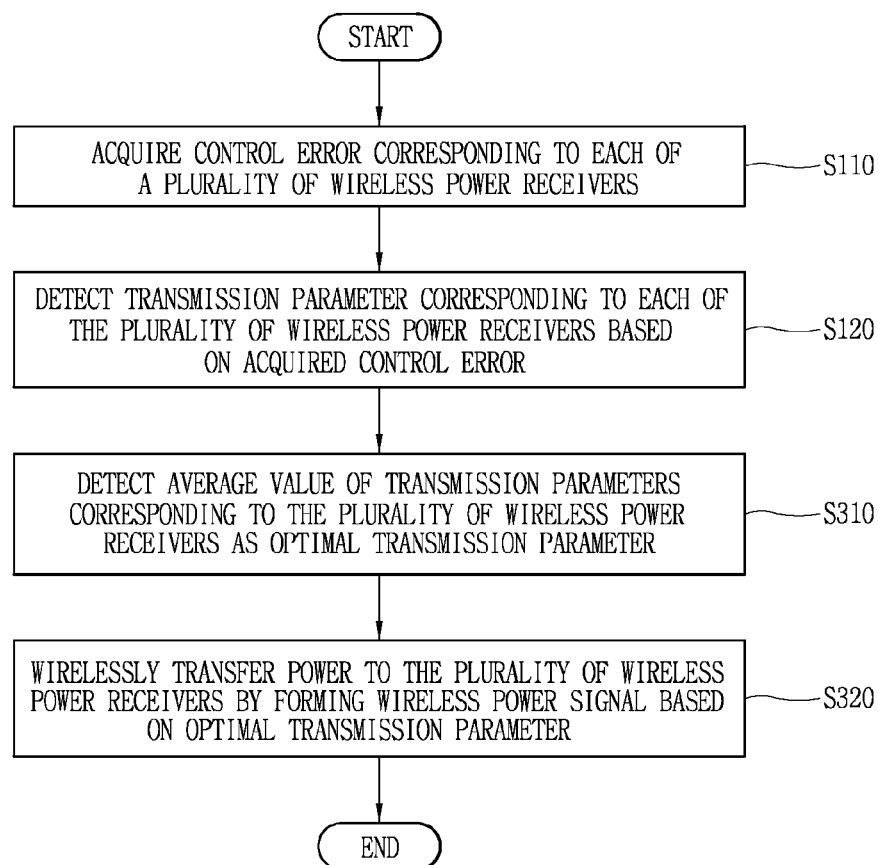


FIG. 27

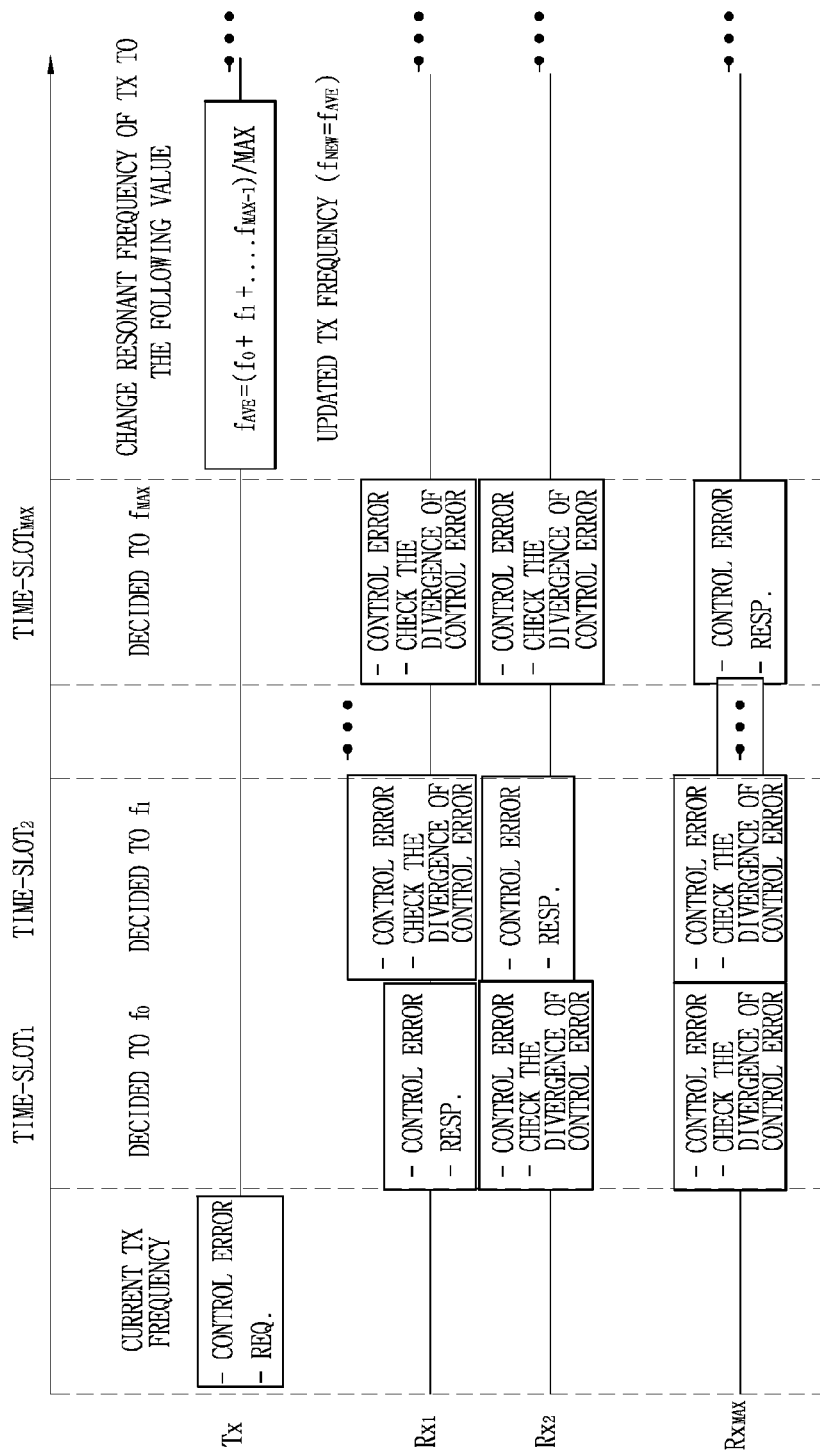


FIG. 28

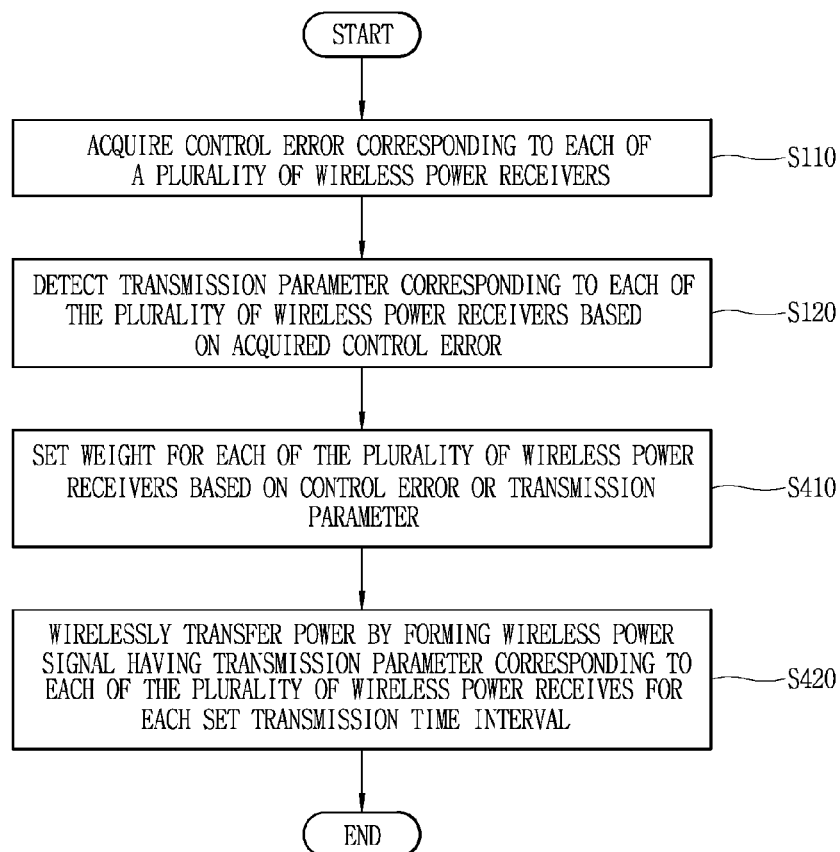
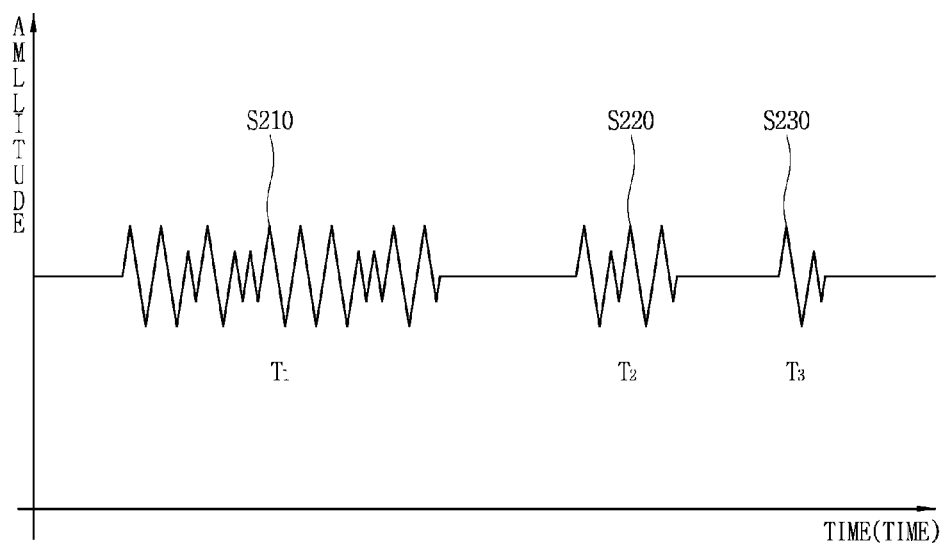


FIG. 29



1

WIRELESS POWER TRANSMITTER AND WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER METHOD THEREOF IN MANY-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

RELATED APPLICATION

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e), this application claims the benefit of earlier filing date and right of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/502,709, filed on Jun. 29, 2011, the contents of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present disclosure relates to wireless power transfer (contactless power transfer), and more particularly, wireless power transfer according to a charge characteristic.

2. Description of the Related Art

In recent years, the method of contactlessly supplying electrical energy to electronic devices in a wireless manner has been used instead of the traditional method of supplying electrical energy in a wired manner. The electronic device receiving energy in a wireless manner may be directly driven by the received wireless power, or a battery may be charged by using the received wireless power, then allowing the electronic device to be driven by the charged power.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the embodiments disclosed herein, there is provided a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power transferring method, in a wireless power transferring method for a wireless power transmitter transferring power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, in which transmission efficiency for a plurality of wireless power receivers can be optimized by deciding an optimal transmission parameter for the plurality of wireless power receivers (especially, a frequency or resonant frequency corresponding to a wireless power signal) based on a control error received from (or transmitted by) each of the plurality of wireless power receivers via time slots allocated thereto.

In an embodiment, there is disclosed a wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter which transfers power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, the method including acquiring control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and transferring power in the wireless manner to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers may be generated based on at least one of a value obtained by subtracting an actually received amount of power from a target amount of power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side current from a target receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting transmission efficiency upon actually receiving

2

power in a wireless manner from a target transmission efficiency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and a value obtained by subtracting a transmission gain upon actually receiving power in a wireless manner from a target transmission gain corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission efficiency may be a ratio between transmission power of the wireless power transmitter and reception power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, the transmission gain may be a ratio between a transmitting side voltage corresponding to the wireless power transmitter and a receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and the reception power may be detected based on a receiving side voltage and a receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers may transmit a packet including a power control message to the wireless power transmitter, the control error may be transmitted to the wireless power transmitter by being included in the packet including the power control message, and the packet including the power control message may be generated by modulating the wireless power signal by each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be at least one of a frequency, an amplitude and a phase of the wireless power signal, and a time interval for transmission of the wireless power signal.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include periodically changing the frequency of the wireless power signal to a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal using the periodically changed transmission frequency.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include detecting an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters, and transferring power in the wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the optimal transmission parameter may be generated by processing the detected transmission parameters in a statistical manner.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the statistical manner may be a method based on at least one of an average, variance and standard deviation of the transmission parameters.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include setting a weight for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the control errors or the detected transmission parameters, setting a transmission time interval for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the weights, and transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power transmitters for the set transmission time interval.

3

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the weight may be proportional to the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be decided such that the control error of each of the plurality of wireless power receivers is less than a reference value.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be decided such that a control error value of a specific wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers does not increase more than a specific value.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the transmission parameter may be decided based on at least one of whether or not a damage is caused on the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) or whether or not the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) are able to wirelessly receive power from the wireless power transmitter.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the method may further include transmitting a control error transmission request to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the control error transmission request may be transmitted when the control error is more than a reference value, when a new wireless power receiver is placed in a specific area, when the number of wireless power receivers existing in the specific area changes, when a position of at least one wireless power receiver existing in the specific area changes, and when there is a periodically received request or a request received from the wireless power receiver, and the specific area may be an area through which the wireless power signal passes or an area on which the wireless power receiver is sensed.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers may transmit the control error to the wireless power transmitter via each time slot corresponding thereto, and the time slot may be formed by dividing a time section for transmission of the wireless power signal by a time axis so as to be allocated to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the plurality of wireless power receivers may include a first wireless power receiver and a second wireless power receiver. Here, the wireless power transmitter may acquire a first control error via a time slot corresponding to the first wireless power receiver, so as to detect a first transmission parameter corresponding to the first wireless power receiver. The wireless power transmitter may acquire a second control error via a time slot corresponding to the second wireless power receiver, so as to detect a second transmission parameter corresponding to the second wireless power receiver. The wireless power transmitter may transfer power in the wireless manner to the first and second wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the first and second transmission parameters.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, there is provided a wireless power transmitter including a power transmission unit configured to transmit a wireless power signal and acquire control errors from a plurality of wireless power receivers receiving the wireless power signal, respectively, and a controller configured to detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and control the power transmission unit to transmit power in a wireless manner to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

4

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the power transmission unit may sequentially acquire the control errors, which correspond to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, from the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, and the controller may detect the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the sequentially acquired control errors, detect an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters, and control the power transmission unit to transmit power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the optimal transmission parameter may be decided as an average value of the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

In one aspect of the present disclosure, the control error may be generated based on a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each the plurality of wireless power receivers. Here, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers may transmit a packet to the wireless power transmitter, the packet including information related to the control error, and the packet may be generated by modulating the wireless power signal by each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

In accordance with a wireless power transmitter and a wireless power transfer method according to exemplary embodiments, transmission efficiency for a plurality of wireless power receivers can be optimized by deciding an optimal transmission parameter for the plurality of wireless power receivers (especially, a frequency corresponding to a wireless power signal or a resonant frequency) based on control errors received from (or transmitted by) the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, via corresponding allocated time slots.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is an exemplary view conceptually illustrating a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device according to the embodiments of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A and 2B are exemplary block diagrams illustrating the configuration of a wireless power transmitter **100** and an electronic device **200** that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein, respectively;

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating a concept in which power is transferred from a wireless power transmitter to an electronic device in a wireless manner according to an inductive coupling method;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are a block diagram illustrating part of the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** in a magnetic induction method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter configured to have one or more transmission coils receiving power according to an inductive coupling method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIG. 6 is a view illustrating a concept in which power is transferred to an electronic device from a wireless power transmitter in a wireless manner according to a resonance coupling method;

FIGS. 7A and 7B are a block diagram illustrating part of the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** in a resonance method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter configured to have one or more transmission coils receiving power according to a resonance coupling method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter further including an additional element in addition to the configuration illustrated in FIG. 2A;

FIG. 10 is view illustrating a configuration in case where an electronic device **200** according to the embodiments disclosed herein is implemented in the form of a mobile terminal;

FIGS. 11A and 11B are a view illustrating the concept of transmitting and receiving a packet between a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device through the modulation and demodulation of a wireless power signal in transferring power in a wireless manner disclosed herein;

FIGS. 12A and 12B is a view illustrating a method of showing data bits and byte constituting a power control message provided by the wireless power transmitter **100**;

FIG. 13 is a view illustrating a packet including a power control message used in a contactless (wireless) power transfer method according to the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIG. 14 is a view illustrating the operation phases of the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** according to the embodiments disclosed herein;

FIGS. 15 through 19 are views illustrating the structure of packets including a power control message between the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200**;

FIG. 20A is a view illustrating a wireless power transfer method based on a control error in a many-to-one communication;

FIG. 20B is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in the many-to-one communication;

FIG. 21 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a wireless power transmitter in accordance with exemplary embodiments;

FIG. 22 is an exemplary embodiment illustrating a method for requesting and obtaining a control error in a wireless power transmitter in accordance with one exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 23 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with exemplary embodiments;

FIG. 24 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method (or a wireless power control method) in accordance with a first exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 25 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the first exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 26 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with a second exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 27 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the second exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 28 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with a third exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 29 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the third exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The technologies disclosed herein may be applicable to wireless power transfer (contactless power transfer). However, the technologies disclosed herein are not limited to this, and may be also applicable to all kinds of power transmission systems and methods, wireless charging circuits and methods to which the technological spirit of the technology can be applicable, in addition to the methods and apparatuses using power transmitted in a wireless manner.

It should be noted that technological terms used herein are merely used to describe a specific embodiment, but not to limit the present invention. Also, unless particularly defined otherwise, technological terms used herein should be construed as a meaning that is generally understood by those having ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, and should not be construed too broadly or too narrowly. Furthermore, if technological terms used herein are wrong terms unable to correctly express the spirit of the invention, then they should be replaced by technological terms that are properly understood by those skilled in the art. In addition, general terms used in this invention should be construed based on the definition of dictionary, or the context, and should not be construed too broadly or too narrowly.

Incidentally, unless clearly used otherwise, expressions in the singular number include a plural meaning. In this application, the terms “comprising” and “including” should not be construed to necessarily include all of the elements or steps disclosed herein, and should be construed not to include some of the elements or steps thereof, or should be construed to further include additional elements or steps.

In addition, a suffix “module” or “unit” used for constituent elements disclosed in the following description is merely intended for easy description of the specification, and the suffix itself does not give any special meaning or function.

Furthermore, the terms including an ordinal number such as first, second, etc. can be used to describe various elements, but the elements should not be limited by those terms. The terms are used merely for the purpose to distinguish an element from the other element. For example, a first element may be named to a second element, and similarly, a second element may be named to a first element without departing from the scope of right of the invention.

Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, and the same or similar elements are designated with the same numeral references regardless of the numerals in the drawings and their redundant description will be omitted.

In describing the present invention, moreover, the detailed description will be omitted when a specific description for publicly known technologies to which the invention pertains is judged to obscure the gist of the present invention. Also, it should be noted that the accompanying drawings are merely illustrated to easily explain the spirit of the invention, and therefore, they should not be construed to limit the spirit of the invention by the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1—Conceptual View of Wireless Power Transmitter and Electronic Device

FIG. 1 is an exemplary view conceptually illustrating a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device according to the embodiments of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 1, the wireless power transmitter **100** may be a power transfer apparatus configured to transfer power required for the electronic device **200** in a wireless manner.

Furthermore, the wireless power transmitter **100** may be a wireless charging apparatus configured to charge a battery of the electronic device **200** by transferring power in a wireless manner. A case where the wireless power transmitter **100** is a wireless charging apparatus will be described later with reference to FIG. 9.

Additionally, the wireless power transmitter **100** may be implemented with various forms of apparatuses transferring power to the electronic device **200** requiring power in a contactless state.

The electronic device **200** is a device that is operable by receiving power from the wireless power transmitter **100** in a wireless manner. Furthermore, the electronic device **200** may charge a battery using the received wireless power.

On the other hand, an electronic device for receiving power in a wireless manner as described herein should be construed broadly to include a portable phone, a cellular phone, a smart phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a portable multimedia player (PMP), a tablet, a multimedia device, or the like, in addition to an input/output device such as a keyboard, a mouse, an audio-visual auxiliary device, and the like.

The electronic device **200**, as described later, may be a mobile communication terminal, (for example, a portable phone, a cellular phone, and a tablet or multimedia device). In case where the electronic device is a mobile terminal, it will be described later with reference to FIG. 10.

On the other hand, the wireless power transmitter **100** may transfer power in a wireless manner without mutual contact to the electronic device **200** using one or more wireless power transfer methods. In other words, the wireless power transmitter **100** may transfer power using at least one of an inductive coupling method based on magnetic induction phenomenon by the wireless power signal and a magnetic resonance coupling method based on electromagnetic resonance phenomenon by a wireless power signal at a specific frequency.

Wireless power transfer in the inductive coupling method is a technology transferring power in a wireless manner using a primary coil and a secondary coil, and refers to the transmission of power by inducing a current from a coil to another coil through a changing magnetic field by a magnetic induction phenomenon.

Wireless power transfer in the inductive coupling method refers to a technology in which the electronic device **200** generates resonance by a wireless power signal transmitted from the wireless power transmitter **100** to transfer power from the wireless power transmitter **100** to the wireless power receiver **200** by the resonance phenomenon.

Hereinafter, the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** according to the embodiments disclosed herein will be described in detail. In assigning reference numerals to the constituent elements in each of the following drawings, the same reference numerals will be used for the same constituent elements even though they are shown in a different drawing.

FIGS. 2A and 2B are an exemplary block diagrams illustrating the configuration of a wireless power transmitter **100** and an electronic device **200** that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein.

FIG. 2A—Wireless Power Transmitter

Referring to FIG. 2A, the wireless power transmitter **100** may include a power transmission unit **110**. The power transmission unit **110** may include a power conversion unit **111** and a power transmission control unit **112**.

The power conversion unit **111** transfers power supplied from a transmission side power supply unit **190** to the electronic device **200** by converting it into a wireless power signal. The wireless power signal transferred by the power con-

version unit **111** is generated in the form of a magnetic field or electromagnetic field having an oscillation characteristic. For this purpose, the power conversion unit **111** may be configured to include a coil for generating the wireless power signal.

The power conversion unit **111** may include a constituent element for generating a different type of wireless power signal according to each power transfer method.

In accordance with exemplary embodiments, the power conversion unit **111** may include a primary coil for forming a changing magnetic field to induce a current to a secondary coil of the electronic device **200**. Furthermore, the power conversion unit **111** may include a coil (or antenna) for forming a magnetic field having a specific resonant frequency to generate a resonant frequency in the electronic device **200** according to the resonance coupling method.

Furthermore, the power conversion unit **111** may transfer power using at least one of the foregoing inductive coupling method and the resonance coupling method.

Among the constituent elements included in the power conversion unit **111**, those for the inductive coupling method will be described later with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5, and those for the resonance coupling method will be described with reference to FIGS. 7 and 8.

On the other hand, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a circuit for controlling the characteristics of a used frequency, an applied voltage, an applied current or the like to form the wireless power signal.

The power transmission control unit **112** controls each of the constituent elements included in the power transmission unit **110**. The power transmission control unit **112** may be implemented to be integrated into another control unit (not shown) for controlling the wireless power transmitter **100**.

On the other hand, a region to which the wireless power signal can be approached may be divided into two types. First, an active area denotes a region through which a wireless power signal transferring power to the electronic device **200** is passed. Next, a semi-active area denotes an interest region in which the wireless power transmitter **100** can detect the existence of the electronic device **200**. Here, the power transmission control unit **112** may detect whether the electronic device **200** is placed in the active area or detection area or removed from the area. Specifically, the power transmission control unit **112** may detect whether or not the electronic device **200** is placed in the active area or detection area using a wireless power signal formed from the power conversion unit **111** or a sensor separately provided therein. For instance, the power transmission control unit **112** may detect the presence of the electronic device **200** by monitoring whether or not the characteristic of power for forming the wireless power signal is changed by the wireless power signal, which is affected by the electronic device **200** existing in the detection area. However, the active area and detection area may vary according to the wireless power transfer method such as an inductive coupling method, a resonance coupling method, and the like.

The power transmission control unit **112** may perform the process of identifying the electronic device **200** or determine whether to start wireless power transfer according to a result of detecting the existence of the electronic device **200**.

Furthermore, the power transmission control unit **112** may determine at least one characteristic of a frequency, a voltage, and a current of the power conversion unit **111** for forming the wireless power signal. The determination of the characteristic may be carried out by a condition at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** or a condition at the side of the electronic device **200**. In exemplary embodiments, the power transmission control unit **112** may decide the characteristic

based on device identification information. In another exemplary embodiment, the power transmission control unit **112** may decide the characteristic based on required power information of the electronic device **200** or profile information related to the required power. The power transmission control unit **112** may receive a power control message from the electronic device **200**. The power transmission control unit **112** may determine at least one characteristic of a frequency, a voltage and a current of the power conversion unit **111** based on the received power control message, and additionally perform other control operations based on the power control message.

For example, the power transmission control unit **112** may determine at least one characteristic of a frequency, a voltage and a current used to form the wireless power signal according to the power control message including at least one of rectified power amount information, charging state information and identification information in the electronic device **200**.

Furthermore, as another control operation using the power control message, the wireless power transmitter **100** may perform a typical control operation associated with wireless power transfer based on the power control message. For example, the wireless power transmitter **100** may receive information associated with the electronic device **200** to be auditorily or visually outputted through the power control message, or receive information required for authentication between devices.

In exemplary embodiments, the power transmission control unit **112** may receive the power control message through the wireless power signal. In other exemplary embodiment, the power transmission control unit **112** may receive the power control message through a method for receiving user data.

In order to receive the foregoing power control message, the wireless power transmitter **100** may further include a modulation/demodulation unit **113** electrically connected to the power conversion unit **111**. The modulation/demodulation unit **113** may modulate a wireless power signal that has been modulated by the electronic device **200** and use it to receive the power control message. The method for allowing the power conversion unit **111** to receive a power control message using a wireless power signal will be described later with reference to FIGS. **11** through **13**.

In addition, the power transmission control unit **112** may acquire a power control message by receiving user data including a power control message by a communication means (not shown) included in the wireless power transmitter **100**.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the wireless power transmitter **100** may supply power to a plurality of electronic devices. Here, collision may occur between wireless power signal which have been modulated by the plurality of electronic devices. Hence, the constituent elements included in the wireless power transmitter **100** may perform various operations to avoid such collision between the modulated wireless power signal.

In one exemplary embodiment, the power conversion unit **111** may convert power supplied from the transmission side power supply unit **190** into a wireless power signal and transfer it to the plurality of electronic devices. For example, the plurality of electronic devices may be two electronic devices, namely, a first electronic device and a second electronic device.

The power conversion unit **111** may generate a wireless power signal for power transmission, and receive a first response signal and a second response signal corresponding to the wireless power signal.

The power transmission control unit **112** may determine whether or not the first and second response signals collide with each other. When the first and second response signals collide with each other according to the determination result, the power transmission control unit **112** may reset the power transmission.

The first and second response signals may be generated by modulating the wireless power signal through the first and second electronic devices.

Through the resetting of the power transmission, the power transmission control unit **112** may control the power conversion unit **111** to sequentially receive the first and second response signals, which are generated to avoid collision with each other.

The sequential reception indicates that the first response signal is received after a first time interval and the second response signal is received after a second time interval within a predetermined response period. The first and second time intervals may be decided based on a value obtained by generating a random number.

The predetermined response period (Tping interval) may be decided to be long enough to include both the first response signal and the second response signal. Also, it may be decided after resetting the power transmission.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, occurrence or non-occurrence of the collision may be determined according to whether or not the first and second response signals are decoded using a preset format. The preset format may include a preamble, a header and a message. Whether or not the first and second response signals collide with each other may be determined based on whether or not the first and second response signals are not recoverable due to an error generation in at least one of the preamble, the header and the message caused by the collision.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the power conversion unit **111** may periodically receive a response signal of the first device, which does not collide with a response signal of the second device within a first response period (Tping interval_1). The power transmission control unit may decode the first response signal and the second response signal using a preset format, and determine whether or not the first and second response signals have collided with each other based on whether or not the decoding is performed. Here, the first response signal and the second response signal may be periodically received within a second response period (Tping interval_2). The second response period (Tping interval_2) may be decided long enough to include both the first and second response signals, and be decided after resetting the power transmission.

FIG. 2B—Electronic Device

Referring to FIG. 2B, the electronic device **200** may include a power supply unit **290**. The power supply unit **290** supplies power required for the operation of the electronic device **200**. The power supply unit **290** may include a power receiving unit **291** and a Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292**.

The power receiving unit **291** receives power transferred from the wireless power transmitter **100** in a wireless manner.

The power receiving unit **291** may include constituent elements required to receive the wireless power signal according to a wireless power transfer method. Furthermore, the power receiving unit **291** may receive power according to at least

11

one wireless power transfer method, and in this case, the power receiving unit **291** may include constituent elements required for each method.

First, the power receiving unit **291** may include a coil for receiving a wireless power signal transferred in the form of a magnetic field or electromagnetic field having a vibration characteristic.

For instance, as a constituent element according to the inductive coupling method, the power receiving unit **291** may include a secondary coil to which a current is induced by a changing magnetic field. In exemplary embodiments, the power receiving unit **291**, as a constituent element according to the resonance coupling method, may include a coil and a resonant circuit in which resonance phenomenon is generated by a magnetic field having a specific resonant frequency.

In another exemplary embodiments, when the power receiving unit **291** receives power according to at least one wireless power transfer method, the power receiving unit **291** may be implemented to receive power by using a coil, or implemented to receive power by using a coil formed differently according to each power transfer method.

Among the constituent elements included in the power receiving unit **291**, those for the inductive coupling method will be described later with reference to FIGS. **4A** and **4B**, and those for the resonance coupling method with reference to FIGS. **7A** and **7B**.

On the other hand, the power receiving unit **291** may further include a rectifier and a regulator to convert the wireless power signal into a direct current. Furthermore, the power receiving unit **291** may further include a circuit for protecting an overvoltage or overcurrent from being generated by the received power signal.

The Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may control each constituent element included in the power supply unit **290**.

Specifically, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may transfer a power control message to the wireless power transmitter **100**. The power control message may instruct the wireless power transmitter **100** to initiate or terminate a transfer of the wireless power signal. Furthermore, the power control message may instruct the wireless power transmitter **100** to control a characteristic of the wireless power signal.

In exemplary embodiments, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may transmit the power control message through the wireless power signal. In another exemplary embodiment, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may transmit the power control message through a method for transmitting user data.

In order to transmit the foregoing power control message, the electronic device **200** may further include a modulation/demodulation unit **293** electrically connected to the power receiving unit **291**. The modulation/demodulation unit **293**, similarly to the case of the wireless power transmitter **100**, may be used to transmit the power control message through the wireless power signal. The power communications modulation/demodulation unit **293** may be used as a means for controlling a current and/or voltage flowing through the power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100**. Hereinafter, a method for allowing the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **113** or **293** at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** and at the side of the electronic device **200**, respectively, to be used to transmit and receive a power control message through a wireless power signal will be described.

12

A wireless power signal formed by the power conversion unit **111** is received by the power receiving unit **291**. At this time, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** controls the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **293** at the side of the electronic device **200** to modulate the wireless power signal. For instance, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may perform a modulation process such that a power amount received from the wireless power signal is varied by changing a reactance of the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **293** connected to the power receiving unit **291**. The change of a power amount received from the wireless power signal results in the change of a current and/or voltage of the power conversion unit **111** for forming the wireless power signal. At this time, the modulation/demodulation unit **113** at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** may detect a change of the current and/or voltage to perform a demodulation process.

In other words, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may generate a packet including a power control message intended to be transferred to the wireless power transmitter **100** and modulate the wireless power signal to allow the packet to be included therein, and the power transmission control unit **112** may decode the packet based on a result of performing the demodulation process of the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **113** to acquire the power control message included in the packet. The detailed method of allowing the wireless power transmitter **100** to acquire the power control message will be described later with reference to FIGS. **11** through **13**.

In addition, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may transmit a power control message to the wireless power transmitter **100** by transmitting user data including the power control message by a communication means (not shown) included in the electronic device **200**.

In addition, the power supply unit **290** may further include a charger **298** and a battery **299**.

The electronic device **200** receiving power for operation from the power supply unit **290** may be operated by power transferred from the wireless power transmitter **100**, or operated by charging the battery **299** using the transferred power and then receiving the charged power. At this time, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may control the charger **298** to perform charging using the transferred power.

In one exemplary embodiment, the plurality of electronic devices may receive power from the wireless power transmitter **100**. Here, collision may occur between wireless power signal which have been modulated by the plurality of electronic devices. Hence, the constituent elements included in the wireless power transmitter **100** may perform various operations to avoid such collision between the modulated wireless power signal.

In one exemplary embodiment, the power receiving unit **291** may receive the wireless power signal for the power transmission from the wireless power transmitter.

Here, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may control the power receiving unit **291** to transmit a third response signal corresponding to the wireless power signal after a time interval set to a first time within the first response period (Timing interval **1**).

In one exemplary embodiment, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may determine whether or not the power transmission of the

wireless power transmitter **100** has been reset due to collision between the modulated wireless power signal, and set the time interval to a second time when the power transmission has been reset according to the determination result.

In one exemplary embodiment, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may control the power receiving unit **291** to transmit a fourth response signal corresponding to the wireless power signal after the time interval set to the second time within the second response period (Tping interval_2). The second time may be decided by a value obtained by generating a random number. Hereinafter, a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device applicable to the embodiments disclosed herein will be described.

First, a method of allowing the wireless power transmitter to transfer power to the electronic device according to the inductive coupling method will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 through 5.

FIG. 3—Inductive Coupling Method

FIG. 3 is a view illustrating a concept in which power is transferred from a wireless power transmitter to an electronic device in a wireless manner according to an inductive coupling method.

When the power of the wireless power transmitter **100** is transferred in an inductive coupling method, if the strength of a current flowing through a primary coil within the power transmission unit **110** is changed, then a magnetic field passing through the primary coil will be changed by the current. The changed magnetic field generates an induced electromotive force at a secondary coil in the electronic device **200**.

According to the foregoing method, the power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100** may include a transmitting (Tx) coil **1111a** being operated as a primary coil in magnetic induction. Furthermore, the power receiving unit **291** of the electronic device **200** may include a receiving (Rx) coil **2911a** being operated as a secondary coil in magnetic induction.

First, the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** are disposed in such a manner that the transmitting coil **1111a** at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** and the receiving coil at the side of the electronic device **200** are located adjacent to each other. Then, if the power transmission control unit **112** controls a current of the transmitting coil **1111a** to be changed, then the power receiving unit **291** controls power to be supplied to the electronic device **200** using an electromotive force induced to the receiving coil **2911a**.

The efficiency of wireless power transfer by the inductive coupling method may be little affected by a frequency characteristic, but affected by an alignment and distance between the wireless power transmitter **100** and the electronic device **200** including each coil.

On the other hand, in order to perform wireless power transfer in the inductive coupling method, the wireless power transmitter **100** may be configured to include an interface surface (not shown) in the form of a flat surface. One or more electronic devices may be placed at an upper portion of the interface surface, and the transmitting coil **1111a** may be mounted at a lower portion of the interface surface. In this case, a vertical spacing is formed in a small-scale between the transmitting coil **1111a** mounted at a lower portion of the interface surface and the receiving coil **2911a** of the electronic device **200** placed at an upper portion of the interface surface, and thus a distance between the coils becomes sufficiently small to efficiently implement contactless power transfer by the inductive coupling method.

Furthermore, an alignment indicator (not shown) indicating a location where the electronic device **200** is to be placed at an upper portion of the interface surface. The alignment indicator indicates a location of the electronic device **200** where an alignment between the transmitting coil **1111a** mounted at a lower portion of the interface surface and the receiving coil **2911a** can be suitably implemented. The alignment indicator may alternatively be simple marks, or may be formed in the form of a protrusion structure for guiding the location of the electronic device **200**. Otherwise, the alignment indicator may be formed in the form of a magnetic body such as a magnet mounted at a lower portion of the interface surface, thereby guiding the coils to be suitably arranged by mutual magnetism to a magnetic body having an opposite polarity mounted within the electronic device **200**.

On the other hand, the wireless power transmitter **100** may be formed to include one or more transmitting coils. The wireless power transmitter **100** may selectively use some of coils suitably arranged with the receiving coil **2911a** of the electronic device **200** among the one or more transmitting coils to enhance the power transmission efficiency. The wireless power transmitter **100** including the one or more transmitting coils will be described later with reference to FIG. 5.

Hereinafter, a configuration of the wireless power transmitter and electronic device using an inductive coupling method applicable to the embodiments disclosed herein will be described in detail.

FIGS. 4A and 4B—Wireless Power Transmitter and Electronic Device in Inductive Coupling Method

FIGS. 4A and 4B are a block diagram illustrating part of the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** in a magnetic induction method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein. A configuration of the power transmission unit **110** included in the wireless power transmitter **100** will be described with reference to FIG. 4A, and a configuration of the power supply unit **290** included in the electronic device **200** will be described with reference to FIG. 4B.

Referring to FIG. 4A, the power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100** may include a transmitting (Tx) coil **1111a** and an inverter **1112**.

The transmitting coil **1111a** may form a magnetic field corresponding to the wireless power signal according to a change of current as described above. The transmitting coil **1111a** may alternatively be implemented with a planar spiral type or cylindrical solenoid type.

The inverter **1112** transforms a DC input obtained from the power supply unit **190** into an AC waveform. The AC current transformed by the inverter **1112** drives a resonant circuit including the transmitting coil **1111a** and a capacitor (not shown) to form a magnetic field in the transmitting coil **1111a**.

In addition, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a positioning unit **1114**.

The positioning unit **1114** may move or rotate the transmitting coil **1111a** to enhance the effectiveness of contactless power transfer using the inductive coupling method. As described above, it is because an alignment and distance between the wireless power transmitter **100** and the electronic device **200** including a primary coil and a secondary coil may affect power transfer using the inductive coupling method. In particular, the positioning unit **1114** may be used when the electronic device **200** does not exist within an active area of the wireless power transmitter **100**.

Accordingly, the positioning unit **1114** may include a drive unit (not shown) for moving the transmitting coil **1111a** such that a center-to-center distance of the transmitting coil **1111a**

15

of the wireless power transmitter **100** and the receiving coil **2911a** of the electronic device **200** is within a predetermined range, or rotating the transmitting coil **1111a** such that the centers of the transmitting coil **1111a** and the receiving coil **2911a** are overlapped with each other.

For this purpose, the wireless power transmitter **100** may further include a detection unit (not shown) made of a sensor for detecting the location of the electronic device **200**, and the power transmission control unit **112** may control the positioning unit **1114** based on the location information of the electronic device **200** received from the location detection sensor.

Furthermore, to this end, the power transmission control unit **112** may receive control information on an alignment or distance to the electronic device **200** through the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **113**, and control the positioning unit **1114** based on the received control information on the alignment or distance.

If the power conversion unit **111** is configured to include a plurality of transmitting coils, then the positioning unit **1114** may determine which one of the plurality of transmitting coils is to be used for power transmission. The configuration of the wireless power transmitter **100** including the plurality of transmitting coils will be described later with reference to FIG. 5.

On the other hand, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a power sensing unit **1115**. The power sensing unit **1115** at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** monitors a current or voltage flowing into the transmitting coil **1111a**. The power sensing unit **1115** is provided to check whether or not the wireless power transmitter **100** is normally operated, and thus the power sensing unit **1115** may detect a voltage or current of the power supplied from the outside, and check whether the detected voltage or current exceeds a threshold value. The power sensing unit **1115**, although not shown, may include a resistor for detecting a voltage or current of the power supplied from the outside and a comparator for comparing a voltage value or current value of the detected power with a threshold value to output the comparison result. Based on the check result of the power sensing unit **1115**, the power transmission control unit **112** may control a switching unit (not shown) to cut off power applied to the transmitting coil **1111a**.

Referring to FIG. 4B, the power supply unit **290** of the electronic device **200** may include a receiving (Rx) coil **2911a** and a rectifier generation circuit **2913**.

A current is induced into the receiving coil **2911a** by a change of the magnetic field formed in the transmitting coil **1111a**. The implementation type of the receiving coil **2911a** may be a planar spiral type or cylindrical solenoid type similar to the transmitting coil **1111a**.

Furthermore, series and parallel capacitors may be configured to be connected to the receiving coil **2911a** to enhance the effectiveness of wireless power reception or perform resonant detection.

The receiving coil **2911a** may be in the form of a single coil or a plurality of coils.

The rectifier generation circuit **2913** performs a full-wave rectification to a current to convert alternating current into direct current. The rectifier generation circuit **2913**, for instance, may be implemented with a full-bridge rectifier generation circuit made of four diodes or a circuit using active components.

In addition, the rectifier generation circuit **2913** may further include a regulator circuit for converting a rectified current into a more flat and stable direct current. Furthermore, the output power of the rectifier generation circuit **2913** is supplied to each constituent element of the power supply unit

16

290. Furthermore, the rectifier generation circuit **2913** may further include a DC-DC converter for converting output DC power into a suitable voltage to adjust it to the power required for each constituent element (for instance, a circuit such as a charger **298**).

The power communications modulation/demodulation unit **293** may be connected to the power receiving unit **291**, and may be configured with a resistive element in which resistance varies with respect to direct current, and may be configured with a capacitive element in which reactance varies with respect to alternating current. The Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** may change the resistance or reactance of the power communications modulation/demodulation unit **293** to modulate a wireless power signal received to the power receiving unit **291**.

On the other hand, the power supply unit **290** may further include a power sensing unit **2914**. The power sensing unit **2914** at the side of the electronic device **200** monitors a voltage and/or current of the power rectified by the rectifier generation circuit **2913**, and if the voltage and/or current of the rectified power exceeds a threshold value as a result of monitoring, then the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** transmits a power control message to the wireless power transmitter **100** to transfer suitable power.

FIG. 5—Wireless Power Transmitter Configured to Include One or More Transmitting Coils

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter configured to have one or more transmission coils receiving power according to an inductive coupling method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein.

Referring to FIG. 5, the power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100** according to the embodiments disclosed herein may include one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n**. The one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n** may be an array of partly overlapping primary coils. An active area may be determined by some of the one or more transmitting coils.

The one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n** may be mounted at a lower portion of the interface surface. Furthermore, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a multiplexer **1113** for establishing and releasing the connection of some of the one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n**.

Upon detecting the location of the electronic device **200** placed at an upper portion of the interface surface, the power transmission control unit **112** may take the detected location of the electronic device **200** into consideration to control the multiplexer **1113**, thereby allowing coils that can be placed in an inductive coupling relation to the receiving coil **2911a** of the electronic device **200** among the one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n** to be connected to one another.

For this purpose, the power transmission control unit **112** may acquire the location information of the electronic device **200**. For example, the power transmission control unit **112** may acquire the location of the electronic device **200** on the interface surface by the location detection unit (not shown) provided in the wireless power transmitter **100**. For another example, the power transmission control unit **112** may alternatively receive a power control message indicating a strength of the wireless power signal from an object on the interface surface or a power control message indicating the identification information of the object using the one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n**, respectively, and determines whether it is located adjacent to which one of the

one or more transmitting coils based on the received result, thereby acquiring the location information of the electronic device **200**.

On the other hand, the active area as part of the interface surface may denote a portion through which a magnetic field with a high efficiency can pass when the wireless power transmitter **100** transfers power to the electronic device **200** in a wireless manner. At this time, a single transmitting coil or one or a combination of more transmitting coils forming a magnetic field passing through the active area may be designated as a primary cell. Accordingly, the power transmission control unit **112** may determine an active area based on the detected location of the electronic device **200**, and establish the connection of a primary cell corresponding to the active area to control the multiplexer **1113**, thereby allowing the receiving coil **2911a** of the electronic device **200** and the coils belonging to the primary cell to be placed in an inductive coupling relation.

In the meantime, upon disposing one or more electronic devices **200** on an interface surface of the wireless power transmitter **100**, which includes the one or more transmitting coils **1111a-1** to **1111a-n**, the power transmission control unit **112** may control the multiplexer **1113** to allow the coils belonging to the primary cell corresponding to the position of each electronic device to be placed in the inductive coupling relation. Accordingly, the wireless power transmitter **100** may generate the wireless power signal using different coils, thereby transferring it to the one or more electronic devices in a wireless manner.

Also, the power transmission control unit **112** may set power having a different characteristic to be supplied to each of the coils corresponding to the electronic devices. Here, the wireless power transmitter **100** may transfer power by differently setting a power transfer scheme, efficiency, characteristic and the like for each electronic device. The power transmission for one or more electronic devices will be described later with reference to FIG. **28**.

Furthermore, the power conversion unit **111** may further include an impedance matching unit (not shown) for controlling an impedance to form a resonant circuit with the coils connected thereto.

Hereinafter, a method for allowing a wireless power transmitter to transfer power according to a resonance coupling method will be disclosed with reference to FIGS. **6** through **8**.

FIG. **6**—Resonance Coupling Method

FIG. **6** is a view illustrating a concept in which power is transferred to an electronic device from a wireless power transmitter in a wireless manner according to a resonance coupling method.

First, resonance will be described in brief as follows. Resonance refers to a phenomenon in which an amplitude of vibration is remarkably increased when periodically receiving an external force having the same frequency as the natural frequency of a vibration system. Resonance is a phenomenon occurring at all kinds of vibrations such as mechanical vibration, electric vibration, and the like. Generally, when exerting a vibratory force to a vibration system from the outside, if the natural frequency thereof is the same as a frequency of the externally applied force, then the vibration becomes strong, thus increasing the width.

With the same principle, when a plurality of vibrating bodies separated from one another within a predetermined distance vibrate at the same frequency, the plurality of vibrating bodies resonate with one another, and in this case, resulting in a reduced resistance between the plurality of vibrating bodies. In an electrical circuit, a resonant circuit can be made by using an inductor and a capacitor.

When the wireless power transmitter **100** transfers power according to the inductive coupling method, a magnetic field having a specific vibration frequency is formed by alternating current power in the power transmission unit **110**. If a resonance phenomenon occurs in the electronic device **200** by the formed magnetic field, then power is generated by the resonance phenomenon in the electronic device **200**.

Describing a principle of the resonance coupling, in general, a method for transferring power by generating an electromagnetic wave exhibits low power transmission efficiency, and may badly affect human bodies due to radiation of the electromagnetic waves and exposure to the electromagnetic waves.

However, if the plurality of vibrating bodies resonate with each other in an electromagnetic manner as aforementioned, extremely high power transmission efficiency may be exhibited due to non affection by adjacent objects except for the vibrating bodies. An energy tunnel may be generated between the plurality of vibrating bodies which resonate with each other in the electromagnetic manner. This may be referred to as energy coupling or energy tail.

The resonance coupling disclosed herein may use an electromagnetic wave having a low frequency. When power is transferred using the electromagnetic wave having the low frequency, only a magnetic field may affect an area located within a single wavelength of the electromagnetic wave. The magnetic resonance may be generated when the wireless power transmitter **100** and the electronic device **200** are located within the single wavelength of the electromagnetic wave having the low frequency.

Here, in general, human bodies are sensitive to an electric field but tolerant to a magnetic field. Hence, when power is transferred using a magnetic resonance, the human bodies may be badly affected due to being exposed to the electromagnetic wave. Also, as the energy tail is generated in response to the resonance phenomenon, the form of power transmission may exhibit a non-radiative property. Consequently, upon transferring power using such electromagnetic wave, a radiative problem which occurs frequently may be solved.

The resonance coupling method may be a method for transferring power using the electromagnetic wave with the low frequency, as aforementioned. Thus, the transmitting coil **1111b** of the wireless power transmitter **100** may form a magnetic field or electromagnetic wave for transferring power in principle. However, the resonance coupling method will be described hereinafter from the perspective of a magnetic resonance, namely, a power transmission by a magnetic field.

The resonant frequency may be determined by the following formula in Equation 1.

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}} \quad [\text{Equation 1}]$$

Here, the resonant frequency (f) is determined by an inductance (L) and a capacitance (C) in a circuit. In a circuit forming a magnetic field using a coil, the inductance can be determined by a number of turns of the coil, and the like, and the capacitance can be determined by a gap between the coils, an area, and the like. In addition to the coil, a capacitive resonant circuit may be configured to be connected thereto to determine the resonant frequency.

Referring to FIG. **6**, when power is transmitted in a wireless manner according to the resonance coupling method, the

19

power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100** may include a transmitting (Tx) coil **111b** in which a magnetic field is formed and a resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116** connected to the transmitting coil **111b** to determine a specific vibration frequency. The resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116** may be implemented by using a capacitive circuit (capacitors), and the specific vibration frequency may be determined based on an inductance of the transmitting coil **111b** and a capacitance of the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116**.

The configuration of a circuit element of the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116** may be implemented in various forms such that the power conversion unit **111** forms a magnetic field, and is not limited to a form of being connected in parallel to the transmitting coil **111b** as illustrated in FIG. 6.

Furthermore, the power receiving unit **291** of the electronic device **200** may include a resonant circuit **2912** and a receiving (Rx) coil **2911b** to generate a resonance phenomenon by a magnetic field formed in the wireless power transmitter **100**. In other words, the resonant circuit **2912** may be also implemented by using a capacitive circuit, and the resonant circuit **2912** is configured such that a resonant frequency determined based on an inductance of the receiving coil **2911b** and a capacitance of the resonant circuit **2912** has the same frequency as a resonant frequency of the formed magnetic field.

The configuration of a circuit element of the resonant circuit **2912** may be implemented in various forms such that the power receiving unit **291** generates resonance by a magnetic field, and is not limited to a form of being connected in series to the receiving coil **2911b** as illustrated in FIG. 6.

The specific vibration frequency in the wireless power transmitter **100** may have L_{TX} , C_{TX} , and may be acquired by using the Equation 1. Here, the electronic device **200** generates resonance when a result of substituting the L_{RX} and C_{RX} of the electronic device **200** to the Equation 1 is same as the specific vibration frequency.

According to a contactless power transfer method by resonance coupling, when the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** resonate at the same frequency, respectively, an electromagnetic wave is propagated through a short-range magnetic field, and thus there exists no energy transfer between the devices if they have different frequencies.

As a result, an efficiency of contactless power transfer by the resonance coupling method is greatly affected by a frequency characteristic, whereas the effect of an alignment and distance between the wireless power transmitter **100** and the electronic device **200** including each coil is relatively smaller than the inductive coupling method.

Hereinafter, the configuration of a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device in the resonance coupling method applicable to the embodiments disclosed herein will be described in detail.

FIGS. 7A and 7B—Wireless Power Transmitter in Resonance Coupling Method

FIGS. 7A and 7B is a block diagram illustrating part of the wireless power transmitter **100** and electronic device **200** in a resonance method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein.

A configuration of the power transmission unit **110** included in the wireless power transmitter **100** will be described with reference to FIG. 7A.

The power conversion unit **111** of the wireless power transmitter **100** may include a transmitting (Tx) coil **111b**, an inverter **1112**, and a resonant circuit (or RESONANT GEN-

20

ERATION CIRCUIT) **1116**. The inverter **1112** may be configured to be connected to the transmitting coil **111b** and the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116**.

The transmitting coil **111b** may be mounted separately from the transmitting coil **111a** for transferring power according to the inductive coupling method, but may transfer power in the inductive coupling method and resonance coupling method using one single coil.

The transmitting coil **111b**, as described above, forms a magnetic field for transferring power. The transmitting coil **111b** and the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116** generate resonance when alternating current power is applied thereto, and at this time, a vibration frequency may be determined based on an inductance of the transmitting coil **111b** and a capacitance of the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116**.

For this purpose, the inverter **1112** transforms a DC input obtained from the power supply unit **190** into an AC waveform, and the transformed AC current is applied to the transmitting coil **111b** and the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116**.

In addition, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a frequency adjustment unit **1117** for changing a resonant frequency of the power conversion unit **111**. The resonant frequency of the power conversion unit **111** is determined based on an inductance and/or capacitance within a circuit constituting the power conversion unit **111** by Equation 1, and thus the power transmission control unit **112** may determine the resonant frequency of the power conversion unit **111** by controlling the frequency adjustment unit **1117** to change the inductance and/or capacitance.

The frequency adjustment unit **1117**, for example, may be configured to include a motor for adjusting a distance between capacitors included in the resonant circuit (or RESONANT GENERATION CIRCUIT) **1116** to change a capacitance, or include a motor for adjusting a number of turns or diameter of the transmitting coil **111b** to change an inductance, or include active elements for determining the capacitance and/or inductance.

On the other hand, the power conversion unit **111** may further include a power sensing unit **1115**. The operation of the power sensing unit **1115** is the same as the foregoing description.

Referring to FIG. 7B, a configuration of the power supply unit **290** included in the electronic device **200** will be described. The power supply unit **290**, as described above, may include the receiving (Rx) coil **2911b** and resonant circuit **2912**.

In addition, the power receiving unit **291** of the power supply unit **290** may further include a rectifier generation circuit **2913** for converting an AC current generated by resonance phenomenon into DC. The rectifier generation circuit **2913** may be configured similarly to the foregoing description.

Furthermore, the power receiving unit **291** may further include a power sensing unit **2914** for monitoring a voltage and/or current of the rectified power. The power sensing unit **2914** may be configured similarly to the foregoing description.

FIG. 8—Wireless Power Transmitter Configured to Include One or More Transmitting Coils

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter configured to have one or more transmission coils receiving power according to an resonance coupling method that can be employed in the embodiments disclosed herein.

21

Referring to FIG. 8, the power conversion unit 111 of the wireless power transmitter 100 according to the embodiments disclosed herein may include one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n and resonant circuits (1116-1 to 1116-n) connected to each transmitting coils. Furthermore, the power conversion unit 111 may further include a multiplexer 1113 for establishing and releasing the connection of some of the one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n.

The one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n may be configured to have the same vibration frequency, or some of them may be configured to have different vibration frequencies. It is determined by an inductance and/or capacitance of the resonant circuits (1116-1 to 1116-n) connected to the one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n, respectively.

In the meantime, when one or more electronic devices 200 are disposed in an active area or a detection area of the wireless power transmitter 100 including the one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n, the power transmission control unit 112 may control the multiplexer 1113 to allow the electronic devices to be placed in different resonance coupling relations. Accordingly, the wireless power transmitter 100 may wirelessly transfer power to the one or more electronic devices by generating the wireless power signal using different coils.

In addition, the power transmission control unit 112 may set power with a different characteristic to be supplied to each of the coils corresponding to the electronic devices. Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may transfer power by differently setting a power transmission scheme, a resonant frequency, efficiency, a characteristic and the like for each electronic device. The power transmission for one or more electronic devices will be described later with reference to FIG. 28. For this purpose, the frequency adjustment unit 1117 may be configured to change an inductance and/or capacitance of the resonant circuits (1116-1 to 1116-n) connected to the one or more transmitting coils 1111b-1 to 1111b-n, respectively.

FIG. 9—Wireless Power Transmitter Implemented by Charger

On the other hand, hereinafter, an example of the wireless power transmitter implemented in the form of a wireless charger will be described.

FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter further including an additional element in addition to the configuration illustrated in FIG. 2A.

Referring to FIG. 9, the wireless power transmitter 100 may further include a sensor unit 120, a communication unit 130, an output unit 140, a memory 150, and a control unit (or Controller) 180 in addition to the power transmission unit 110 and power supply unit 190 for supporting at least one of the foregoing inductive coupling method and resonance coupling method.

The control unit (or Controller) 180 controls the power transmission unit 110, the sensor unit 120, the communication unit 130, the output unit 140, the memory 150, and the power supply unit 190.

The control unit (or Controller) 180 may be implemented by a module separated from the power transmission control unit 112 in the power transmission unit 110 described with reference to FIG. 2 or may be implemented by a single module.

The sensor unit 120 may include a sensor for detecting the location of the electronic device 200. The location information detected by the sensor unit 120 may be used for allowing the power transmission unit 110 to transfer power in an efficient manner.

22

For instance, in case of wireless power transfer according to the inductive coupling method, the sensor unit 120 may be operated as a detection unit, and the location information detected by the sensor unit 120 may be used to move or rotate the transmitting coil 1111a in the power transmission unit 110.

Furthermore, for example, the wireless power transmitter 100 configured to include the foregoing one or more transmitting coils may determine coils that can be placed in an inductive coupling relation or resonance coupling relation to the receiving coil of the electronic device 200 among the one or more transmitting coils based on the location information of the electronic device 200.

On the other hand, the sensor unit 120 may be configured to monitor whether or not the electronic device 200 approaches a chargeable region. The approach or non-approach detection function of the sensor unit 120 may be carried out separately from the function of allowing the power transmission control unit 112 in the power transmission unit 110 to detect the approach or non-approach of the electronic device 200.

The communication unit 130 performs wired or wireless data communication with the electronic device 200. The communication unit 130 may include an electronic component for at least any one of Bluetooth™, Zigbee, Ultra Wide Band (UWB), Wireless USB, Near Field Communication (NFC), and Wireless LAN.

The output unit 140 may include at least one of a display unit 141 and an audio output unit (or SOUND OUTPUT UNIT) 142. The display unit 141 may include at least one of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a thin film transistor-liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), an organic light-emitting diode (OLED), a flexible display, and a three-dimensional (3D) display. The display unit 141 may display a charging state under the control of the control unit (or Controller) 180.

The memory 150 may include at least one storage medium of a flash memory type, a hard disk type, a multimedia card micro type, a card type memory (e.g., SD or XD memory), a random access memory (RAM), a static random access memory (SRAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a programmable read-only memory (PROM), a magnetic memory, a magnetic disk, an optical disk, and the like. The wireless power transmitter 100 may operate in association with a web storage performing the storage function of the memory 150 on the Internet. A program or commands performing the foregoing functions of the wireless power transmitter 100 may be stored in the memory 150. The control unit (or Controller) 180 may perform the program or commands stored in the memory 150 to transmit power in a wireless manner. A memory controller (not shown) may be used to allow other constituent elements (e.g., control unit (or Controller) 180) included in the wireless power transmitter 100 to access the memory 150.

However, it would be easily understood by those skilled in the art that the configuration of a wireless power transmitter according to the embodiment disclosed herein may be applicable to an apparatus, such as a docking station, a terminal cradle device, and an electronic device, and the like, excluding a case where it is applicable to only a wireless charger.

FIG. 10—Wireless Power Receiver Implemented with Mobile Terminal

FIG. 10 is view illustrating a configuration in case where an electronic device 200 according to the embodiments disclosed herein is implemented in the form of a mobile terminal.

The mobile communication terminal 200 may include a power supply unit 290 illustrated in FIG. 2, 4, or 7.

23

Furthermore, the terminal **200** may further include a wireless communication unit **210**, an Audio/Video (NV) input unit **220**, a user input unit **230**, a sensing unit **240**, an output unit **250**, a memory **260**, an interface unit **270**, and a controller **280**. FIG. **10** illustrates the terminal **100** having various components, but it is understood that implementing all of the illustrated components is not a requirement. Greater or fewer components may alternatively be implemented.

Hereinafter, each component is described in sequence.

The wireless communication unit **210** may typically include one or more modules which permit wireless communications between the terminal **200** and a wireless communication system or between the terminal **200** and a network within which the terminal **200** is located. For example, the wireless communication unit **210** may include a broadcast receiving module **211**, a mobile communication module **212**, a wireless internet module **213**, a short-range communication module **214**, a position location module **215** and the like.

The broadcast receiving module **211** receives a broadcast signal and/or broadcast associated information from an external broadcast managing entity via a broadcast channel.

The broadcast channel may include a satellite channel and a terrestrial channel. The broadcast center may indicate a server which generates and transmits a broadcast signal and/or broadcast associated information or a server which receives a pre-generated broadcast signal and/or broadcast associated information and sends them to the portable terminal. The broadcast signal may be implemented as a TV broadcast signal, a radio broadcast signal, and a data broadcast signal, among others. The broadcast signal may further include a data broadcast signal combined with a TV or radio broadcast signal.

Examples of broadcast associated information may denote information associated with a broadcast channel, a broadcast program, a broadcast service provider, and the like. The broadcast associated information may be provided via a mobile communication network. In this case, it may be received by the mobile communication module **212**.

The broadcast associated information may be implemented in various formats. For instance, broadcast associated information may include Electronic Program Guide (EPG) of Digital Multimedia Broadcasting (DMB), Electronic Service Guide (ESG) of Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld (DVB-H), and the like.

The broadcast receiving module **211** may be configured to receive digital broadcast signals transmitted from various types of broadcast systems. Such broadcast systems may include Digital Multimedia Broadcasting-Terrestrial (DMB-T), Digital Multimedia Broadcasting-Satellite (DMB-S), Media Forward Link Only (MediaFLO), Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld (DVB-H), Integrated Services Digital Broadcast-Terrestrial (ISDB-T) and the like. The broadcast receiving module **211** may be configured to be suitable for every broadcast system transmitting broadcast signals as well as the digital broadcasting systems.

Broadcast signals and/or broadcast associated information received via the broadcast receiving module **211** may be stored in a suitable device, such as a memory **260**.

The mobile communication module **212** transmits/receives wireless signals to/from at least any one of a base station, an external portable terminal, and a server on a mobile communication network. The wireless signal may include audio call signal, video (telephony) call signal, or various formats of data according to transmission/reception of text/multimedia messages.

The wireless internet module **213** supports wireless Internet access for the mobile terminal **200**. This module may be internally or externally coupled to the terminal **100**.

24

Examples of such wireless Internet access may include Wireless LAN (WLAN) (Wi-Fi), Wireless Broadband (Wibro), Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (Wimax), High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) and the like.

The short-range communication module **214** denotes a module for short-range communications. Suitable technologies for implementing this module may include Bluetooth, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Infrared Data Association (IrDA), Ultra-WideBand (UWB), ZigBee, and the like. On the other hand, Universal Serial Bus (USB), IEEE 1394, Thunderbolt of Intel technology, and the like, may be used for wired short-range communication.

The wireless internet module **213** or the short-range communication module **214** may establish data communication connection to the wireless power transmitter **100**.

Through the established data communication, when there is an audio signal to be outputted while transferring power in a wireless manner, the wireless internet module **213** or the short-range communication module **214** may transmit the audio signal to the wireless power transmitter **100** through the short-range communication module. Furthermore, through the established data communication, when there is information to be displayed, the wireless internet module **213** or the short-range communication module **214** may transmit the information to the wireless power transmitter **100**. Otherwise, the wireless internet module **213** or the short-range communication module **214** may transmit an audio signal received through a microphone integrated in the wireless power transmitter **100**. Furthermore, the wireless internet module **213** or the short-range communication module **214** may transmit the identification information (e.g., phone number or device name in case of a portable phone) of the mobile terminal **200** to the wireless power transmitter **100** through the established data communication.

The position location module **215** is a module for acquiring a position of the terminal. An example of the position location module **215** may include a Global Position System (GPS) module.

Referring to FIG. **10**, the NV input unit **220** is configured to provide audio or video signal input to the portable terminal. The A/V input unit **220** may include a camera **221** and a microphone **222**. The camera **221** processes image frames of still or moving images obtained by an image sensor in a video call mode or a capture mode. The processed image frames may be displayed on the display unit **251**.

The image frames processed by the camera **221** may be stored in the memory **260** or transmitted to the exterior via the wireless communication unit **210**. Two or more cameras **221** may be provided therein according to the use environment.

The microphone **222** may receive an external audio signal by a microphone in a phone call mode, a recording mode, a voice recognition mode, or the like to process it into electrical audio data. The processed audio data is converted and outputted into a format transmittable to a mobile communication base station via the mobile communication module **212** in case of the phone call mode. The microphone **222** may include various noise removal algorithms to remove noises generated while receiving the external audio signal.

The user input unit **230** may generate input data to allow the user to control the operation of the terminal. The user input unit **230** may include a keypad, a dome switch, a touchpad (e.g., static pressure/capacitance), a jog wheel, a jog switch and the like.

The sensing unit **240** may include a proximity sensor **241**, a pressure sensor **242**, a motion sensor **243**, and the like. The proximity sensor **241** detects an object approaching the

25

mobile terminal **200**, or the presence or absence of an object existing adjacent to the mobile terminal **200**, and the like without any mechanical contact. The proximity sensor **241** may detect a proximity object using a change of the AC magnetic field or static magnetic field, a change rate of the electrostatic capacity, or the like. Two or more proximity sensors **241** may be provided according to the aspect of configuration.

The pressure sensor **242** may detect whether or not a pressure is applied to the mobile terminal **200**, a size of the pressure, and the like. The pressure sensor **242** may be provided at a portion where the detection of a pressure is required in the mobile terminal **200** according to the use environment. When the pressure sensor **242** is provided in the display unit **251**, it may be possible to identify a touch input through the display unit **251** and a pressure touch input by which a pressure larger than the touch input is applied according to a signal outputted from the pressure sensor **242**. Furthermore, it may be possible to know a size of the pressure applied to the display unit **251** during the input of a pressure touch.

The motion sensor **243** detects the location or movement of the mobile terminal **200** using an acceleration sensor, a gyro sensor, and the like. The acceleration sensor used in the motion sensor **243** is an element for converting an acceleration change in any one direction into an electrical signal. Two or three axes are typically integrated into a package to constitute an acceleration sensor, and only one Z-axis may be required according to the use environment. Accordingly, when an acceleration sensor in the direction of X-axis or Y-axis should be used instead of the direction of Z-axis due to any reason, the acceleration sensor may be erected and mounted on a main substrate using a separate piece substrate. Furthermore, the gyro sensor is a sensor for measuring an angular speed of the mobile terminal **200** in a rotational movement to detect a rotated angle with respect to each reference direction. For instance, the gyro sensor may detect each rotational angle, i.e., azimuth, pitch and roll, with reference to three directional axes.

The output unit **250** is provided to output visual, auditory, or tactile information. The output unit **250** may include a display unit **251**, an audio output module **252**, an alarm unit **253**, a haptic module **254**, and the like.

The display unit **251** may display (output) information processed in the terminal **200**. For example, when the terminal is in a phone call mode, the display unit **251** will provide a User Interface (UI) or Graphic User Interface (GUI) associated with the call. When the terminal is in a video call mode or a capture mode, the display unit **251** may display images captured and/or received, UI, or GUI.

The display unit **251** may include at least one of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a thin film transistor-liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), an organic light-emitting diode (OLED), a flexible display, a three-dimensional (3D) display, and the like.

Some of those displays may be configured as a transparent type or an light transmission type through which the outside is visible, which is referred to as a transparent display. A representative example of the transparent display may include a Transparent OLED (TOLED), or the like. The rear surface of the display unit **151** may also be implemented to be optically transparent. Under this configuration, the user can view an object positioned at a rear side of the terminal body through a region occupied by the display unit **251** of the terminal body.

The display unit **251** may be implemented in two or more in number according to a configured aspect of the terminal **200**. For instance, a plurality of the display units **251** may be

26

arranged on one surface to be spaced apart from or integrated with each other, or may be arranged on different surfaces.

Here, if the display unit **251** and a touch sensitive sensor (referred to as a touch sensor) have a layered structure therebetween, the display unit **251** may be used as an input device rather than an output device. The touch sensor may be implemented as a touch film, a touch sheet, a touch pad, and the like.

The touch sensor may be configured to convert changes of a pressure applied to a specific part of the display unit **251**, or a capacitance occurring from a specific part of the display unit **251**, into electric input signals. Also, the touch sensor may be configured to sense not only a touched position and a touched area, but also a touch pressure.

When touch inputs are sensed by the touch sensors, corresponding signals are sent to a touch controller. The touch controller processes the received signals, and then transmits corresponding data to the controller **280**. Accordingly, the controller **280** may sense which region of the display unit **151** has been touched.

The proximity sensor **241** may be arranged at an inner region of the terminal covered by the touch screen, or near the touch screen. The proximity sensor refers to a sensor to sense the presence or absence of an object approaching a surface to be sensed, or an object disposed near a surface to be sensed, using an electromagnetic field or infrared rays without a mechanical contact. The proximity sensor has a longer lifespan and a more enhanced utility than a contact sensor.

The proximity sensor may include a transmissive type photoelectric sensor, a direct reflective type photoelectric sensor, a mirror reflective type photoelectric sensor, a high-frequency oscillation proximity sensor, a capacitance type proximity sensor, a magnetic type proximity sensor, an infrared rays proximity sensor, and so on. When the touch screen is implemented as a capacitance type, proximity of a pointer to the touch screen is sensed by changes of an electromagnetic field. In this case, the touch screen (touch sensor) may be categorized into a proximity sensor.

Hereinafter, for the sake of brief explanation, a status that the pointer is positioned to be proximate onto the touch screen without contact will be referred to as a "proximity touch", whereas a status that the pointer substantially comes in contact with the touch screen will be referred to as a "contact touch". For the position corresponding to the proximity touch of the pointer on the touch screen, such position corresponds to a position where the pointer faces perpendicular to the touch screen upon the proximity touch of the pointer.

The proximity sensor senses proximity touch, and proximity touch patterns (e.g., distance, direction, speed, time, position, moving status, etc.). Information relating to the sensed proximity touch and the sensed proximity touch patterns may be output onto the touch screen.

The audio output module **252** may output audio data received from the wireless communication unit **210** or stored in the memory **260**, in a call-receiving mode, a call-placing mode, a recording mode, a voice recognition mode, a broadcast reception mode, and so on. The audio output module **252** may output audio signals relating to functions performed in the terminal **200**, e.g., sound alarming a call received or a message received, and so on. The audio output module **252** may include a receiver, a speaker, a buzzer, and so on.

The alarm **253** outputs signals notifying the occurrence of an event from the terminal **200**. The event occurring from the terminal **100** may include call received, message received, key signal input, touch input, and so on. The alarm **253** may output not only video or audio signals, but also other types of signals such as signals notifying occurrence of events in a vibration manner. Since the video or audio signals can be

27

output through the display unit **251** or the audio output unit **252**, the display unit **251** and the audio output module **252** may be categorized into part of the alarm **253**.

The haptic module **254** generates various tactile effects which a user can feel. A representative example of the tactile effects generated by the haptic module **254** includes vibration. Vibration generated by the haptic module **254** may have a controllable intensity, a controllable pattern, and so on. For instance, different vibration may be output in a synthesized manner or in a sequential manner.

The haptic module **254** may generate various tactile effects, including not only vibration, but also arrangement of pins vertically moving with respect to a skin being contacted, air injection force or air suction force through an injection hole or a suction hole, touch by a skin surface, presence or absence of contact with an electrode, effects by stimulus such as an electrostatic force, reproduction of cold or hot feeling using a heat absorbing device or a heat emitting device, and the like.

The haptic module **254** may be configured to transmit tactile effects through the user's direct contact, or the user's muscular sense using a finger or a hand. The haptic module **254** may be implemented in two or more in number according to the configuration of the terminal **200**.

The memory **260** may store a program for the processing and control of the controller **280**. Alternatively, the memory **260** may temporarily store input/output data (e.g., phonebook data, messages, still images, video and the like). Also, the memory **260** may store data related to various patterns of vibrations and audio output upon the touch input on the touch screen.

In some embodiments, software components including an operating system (not shown), a module performing a wireless communication unit **210** function, a module operating together with the user input unit **230**, a module operating together with the A/V input unit **220**, a module operating together with the output unit **250** may be stored in the memory **260**. The operating system (e.g., LINUX, UNIX, OS X, WINDOWS, Chrome, Symbian, iOS, Android, VxWorks, or other embedded operating systems) may include various software components and/or drivers to control system tasks such as memory management, power management, and the like.

In addition, the memory **260** may store a setup program associated with contactless power transfer or wireless charging. The setup program may be implemented by the controller **280**.

Furthermore, the memory **260** may store an application associated with contactless power transfer (or wireless charging) downloaded from an application providing server (for example, an app store). The wireless charging related application is a program for controlling wireless charging transmission, and thus the electronic device **200** may receive power from the wireless power transmitter **100** in a wireless manner or establish connection for data communication with the wireless power transmitter **100** through the relevant program.

The memory **260** may be implemented using any type of suitable storage medium including a flash memory type, a hard disk type, a multimedia card micro type, a memory card type (e.g., SD or xD memory), a random access memory (RAM), a static random access memory (SRAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a programmable read-only memory (PROM), a magnetic memory, a magnetic disk, an optical disk, and the like. Also, the terminal **200** may be operated in association with a web storage performing the storage function of the memory **160** on the Internet.

28

The interface unit **270** may generally be implemented to interface the portable terminal with all external devices. The interface unit **270** may allow a data reception from an external device, a power delivery to each component in the terminal **200**, or a data transmission from the terminal **200** to an external device. The interface unit **270** may include, for example, wired/wireless headset ports, external charger ports, wired/wireless data ports, memory card ports, ports for coupling devices having an identification module, audio input/output (I/O) ports, video input/output (I/O) ports, earphone ports, and the like.

The identification module may be configured as a chip for storing various information required to authenticate an authority to use the terminal **200**, which may include a User Identity Module (UIM), a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM), and the like. Also, the device having the identification module (hereinafter, referred to as "identification device") may be implemented in a type of smart card. Hence, the identification device can be coupled to the terminal **200** via a port.

Also, the interface unit may serve as a path for power to be supplied from an external cradle to the terminal **200** when the terminal **100** is connected to the external cradle or as a path for transferring various command signals inputted from the cradle by a user to the terminal **200**. Such various command signals or power inputted from the cradle may operate as signals for recognizing that the terminal **200** has accurately been mounted to the cradle.

The controller **280** typically controls the overall operations of the terminal **200**. For example, the controller **280** performs the control and processing associated with telephony calls, data communications, video calls, and the like. The controller **280** may include a multimedia module **281** for multimedia playback. The multimedia module **281** may be implemented within the controller **280**, or implemented separately from the controller **280**.

The controller **280** can perform a pattern recognition processing so as to recognize a writing input or image drawing input carried out on the touch screen as a text or image.

The controller **280** performs wired or wireless charging according to the user input or internal input. Here, the internal input represents a signal for notifying that an induced current generated from a secondary coil within the terminal has been detected.

When the foregoing wireless charging is carried out, an operation of allowing the controller **280** to control each constituent element will be described in detail below with reference to the operation phase in FIG. **14**. As described above, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292** within the power supply unit **290** may be implemented to be included in the controller **280**, and in the present disclosure, it should be understood that the controller **280** performs the operation by the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) **292**.

The power supply unit **290** receives internal and external power under the control of the controller **280** to supply power required for the operation of each constituent element.

The power supply unit **290** is provided with a battery **299** for supplying power to each constituent element of the terminal **200**, and the battery **299** may include a charger **298** for performing wired or wireless charging.

The present disclosure discloses a mobile terminal as an example of the apparatus for receiving power in a wireless manner, but it would be easily understood by those skilled in the art that the configuration according to the embodiment disclosed herein may be applicable to a stationary terminal,

such as a digital TV, a desktop computer, and the like, excluding a case where it is applicable to only the mobile terminal.

FIGS. 11A and 11B—Backscatter Modulation

FIGS. 11A and 11B is a view illustrating the concept of transmitting and receiving a packet between a wireless power transmitter and an electronic device through the modulation and demodulation of a wireless power signal in transferring power in a wireless manner disclosed herein.

Referring to FIG. 11A, the wireless power signal formed by the power conversion unit 111 forms a closed-loop within a magnetic field or electromagnetic field, and therefore, when the electronic device 200 modulates the wireless power signal while receiving the wireless power signal, the wireless power transmitter 100 may detect the modulated wireless power signal. The power communications modulation/demodulation unit 113 may demodulate the detected wireless power signal, and decodes the packet from the modulated wireless power signal.

On the other hand, a modulation method used for communication between the wireless power transmitter 100 and the electronic device 200 may be amplitude modulation. As described above, the amplitude modulation method may be a backscatter modulation method in which the power communications modulation/demodulation unit 293 at the side of the electronic device 200 changes an amplitude of the wireless power signal 10a formed by the power conversion unit 111 and the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) 292 at the side of the wireless power transmitter 100 detects an amplitude of the modulated wireless power signal 10b.

Specifically, further referring to FIG. 11B, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) 292 at the side of the electronic device 200 modulates the wireless power signal 10a received through the power receiving unit 291 by changing a load impedance within the power communications modulation/demodulation unit 293. The Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) 292 modulates the wireless power signal 10a to include a packet including a power control message to be transmitted to the wireless power transmitter 100.

Then, the power transmission control unit 112 at the side of the wireless power transmitter 100 demodulates the modulated wireless power signal 10b through an envelope detection process, and decodes the detected signal 10c into digital data 10d. The demodulation process detects a current or voltage flowing into the power conversion unit 111 to be classified into two states, a HI phase and a LO phase, and acquires a packet to be transmitted by the electronic device 200 based on digital data classified according to the states.

Hereinafter, a process of allowing the wireless power transmitter 100 to acquire a power control message to be transmitted by the electronic device 200 from the demodulated digital data will be described.

FIGS. 12A and 12B—Bit Encoding, Byte Format

FIGS. 12A and 12B is a view illustrating a method of showing data bits and byte constituting a power control message provided by the wireless power transmitter 100.

Referring to FIG. 12A, the power transmission control unit 112 detects an encoded bit using a clock signal (CLK) from an envelope detected signal. The detected encoded bit is encoded according to a bit encoding method used in the modulation process at the side of the electronic device 200. The bit encoding method may correspond to any one of non-return to zero (NRZ) and bi-phase encoding.

For instance, the detected bit may be a differential bi-phase (DBP) encoded bit. According to the DBP encoding, the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING

CONTROL UNIT) 292 at the side of the electronic device 200 is allowed to have two state transitions to encode data bit 1, and to have one state transition to encode data bit 0. In other words, data bit 1 may be encoded in such a manner that a transition between the HI state and LO state is generated at a rising edge and falling edge of the clock signal, and data bit 0 may be encoded in such a manner that a transition between the HI state and LO state is generated at a rising edge of the clock signal.

On the other hand, the power transmission control unit 112 may acquire data in a byte unit using a byte format constituting a packet from a bit string detected according to the bit encoding method. For instance, the detected bit string may be transferred by using a 11-bit asynchronous serial format as illustrated in FIG. 12B. In other words, the detected bit may include a start bit indicating the beginning of a byte and a stop bit indicating the end of a byte, and also include data bits (b0 to b7) between the start bit and the stop bit. Furthermore, it may further include a parity bit for checking an error of data. The data in a byte unit constitutes a packet including a power control message.

FIG. 13—Packet Format

FIG. 13 is a view illustrating a packet including a power control message used in a contactless power transfer method according to the embodiments disclosed herein.

The packet 500 may include a preamble 510, a header 520, a message 530, and a checksum 540.

The preamble 510 may be used to perform synchronization with data received by the wireless power transmitter 100 and detect the start bit of the header 520. The preamble 510 may be configured to repeat the same bit. For instance, the preamble 510 may be configured such that data bit 1 according to the DBP encoding is repeated eleven to twenty five times.

The header 520 may be used to indicate a type of the packet 500. A size of the message 530 and the kind thereof may be determined based on a value indicated by the header 520. The header 520 is a value having a predetermined size to be positioned subsequent to the preamble 510. For instance, the header 520 may be a byte in size.

The message 530 may be configured to include data determined based on the header 520. The message 530 has a predetermined size according to the kind thereof.

The checksum 540 may be used to detect an error that can be occurred in the header 520 and the message 530 while transmitting a power control message. The header 520 and the message 530 excluding the preamble 510 for synchronization and the checksum 540 for error checking may be referred to as command-packet.

FIG. 14—Operation Phases

Hereinafter, description will be given of operation phases of the wireless power transmitter 100 and the electronic device 200.

FIG. 14 illustrates the operation phases of the wireless power transmitter 100 and electronic device 200 according to the embodiments disclosed herein. Furthermore, FIGS. 15 through 20 illustrates the structure of packets including a power control message between the wireless power transmitter 100 and electronic device 200.

Referring to FIG. 14, the operation phases of the wireless power transmitter 100 and the electronic device 200 for wireless power transfer may be divided into a selection phase (state) 610, a ping phase 620, an identification and configuration phase 630, and a power transfer phase 640.

The wireless power transmitter 100 detects whether or not objects exist within a range that the wireless power transmitter 100 can transmit power in a wireless manner in the selection state 610, and the wireless power transmitter 100 sends a

31

detection signal to the detected object and the electronic device **200** sends a response to the detection signal in the ping state **620**.

Furthermore, the wireless power transmitter **100** identifies the electronic device **200** selected through the previous states and acquires configuration information for power transmission in the identification and configuration state **630**. The wireless power transmitter **100** transmits power to the electronic device **200** while controlling power transmitted in response to a control message received from the electronic device **200** in the power transfer state **640**.

Hereinafter, each of the operation phases will be described in detail.

1) Selection State

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the selection state **610** performs a detection process to select the electronic device **200** existing within a detection area. The detection area, as described above, refers to a region in which an object within the relevant area can affect on the characteristic of the power of the power conversion unit **111**. Compared to the ping state **620**, the detection process for selecting the electronic device **200** in the selection state **610** is a process of detecting a change of the power amount for forming a wireless power signal in the power conversion unit at the side of the wireless power transmitter **100** to check whether any object exists within a predetermined range, instead of the scheme of receiving a response from the electronic device **200** using a power control message. The detection process in the selection state **610** may be referred to as an analog ping process in the aspect of detecting an object using a wireless power signal without using a packet in a digital format in the ping state **620** which will be described later.

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the selection state **610** can detect that an object comes in or out within the detection area. Furthermore, the wireless power transmitter **100** can distinguish the electronic device **200** capable of transferring power in a wireless manner from other objects (for example, a key, a coin, etc.) among objects located within the detection area.

As described above, a distance that can transmit power in a wireless manner may be different according to the inductive coupling method and resonance coupling method, and thus the detection area for detecting an object in the selection state **610** may be different from one another.

First, in case where power is transmitted according to the inductive coupling method, the wireless power transmitter **100** in the selection state **610** can monitor an interface surface (not shown) to detect the alignment and removal of objects.

Furthermore, the wireless power transmitter **100** may detect the location of the electronic device **200** placed on an upper portion of the interface surface. As described above, the wireless power transmitter **100** formed to include one or more transmitting coils may perform the process of entering the ping state **620** in the selection state **610**, and checking whether or not a response to the detection signal is transmitted from the object using each coil in the ping state **620** or subsequently entering the identification state **630** to check whether identification information is transmitted from the object. The wireless power transmitter **100** may determine a coil to be used for contactless power transfer based on the detected location of the electronic device **200** acquired through the foregoing process.

Furthermore, when power is transmitted according to the resonance coupling method, the wireless power transmitter **100** in the selection state **610** can detect an object by detecting

32

that any one of a frequency, a current and a voltage of the power conversion unit is changed due to an object located within the detection area.

On the other hand, the wireless power transmitter **100** in the selection state **610** may detect an object by at least any one of the detection methods using the inductive coupling method and resonance coupling method. The wireless power transmitter **100** may perform an object detection process according to each power transmission method, and subsequently select a method of detecting the object from the coupling methods for contactless power transfer to advance to other states **620**, **630**, **640**.

On the other hand, for the wireless power transmitter **100**, a wireless power signal formed to detect an object in the selection state **610** and a wireless power signal formed to perform digital detection, identification, configuration and power transmission in the subsequent states **620**, **630**, **640** may have a different characteristic in the frequency, strength, and the like. It is because the selection state **610** of the wireless power transmitter **100** corresponds to an idle state for detecting an object, thereby allowing the wireless power transmitter **100** to reduce consumption power in the idle state or generate a specialized signal for effectively detecting an object.

2) Ping State

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the ping state **620** performs a process of detecting the electronic device **200** existing within the detection area through a power control message. Compared to the detection process of the electronic device **200** using a characteristic of the wireless power signal and the like in the selection state **610**, the detection process in the ping state **620** may be referred to as a digital ping process.

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the ping state **620** forms a wireless power signal to detect the electronic device **200**, modulates the wireless power signal modulated by the electronic device **200**, and acquires a power control message in a digital data format corresponding to a response to the detection signal from the modulated wireless power signal. The wireless power transmitter **100** may receive a power control message corresponding to the response to the detection signal to recognize the electronic device **200** which is a subject of power transmission.

The detection signal formed to allowing the wireless power transmitter **100** in the ping state **620** to perform a digital detection process may be a wireless power signal formed by applying a power signal at a specific operating point for a predetermined period of time. The operating point may denote a frequency, duty cycle, and amplitude of the voltage applied to the transmitting (Tx) coil. The wireless power transmitter **100** may generate the detection signal generated by applying the power signal at a specific operating point for a predetermined period of time, and attempt to receive a power control message from the electronic device **200**.

On the other hand, the power control message corresponding to a response to the detection signal may be a message indicating a strength of the wireless power signal received by the electronic device **200**. For example, the electronic device **200** may transmit a signal strength packet **5100** including a message indicating the received strength of the wireless power signal as a response to the detection signal as illustrated in FIG. 15. The packet **5100** may include a header **5120** for notifying a packet indicating the signal strength and a message **5130** indicating a strength of the power signal received by the electronic device **200**. The strength of the power signal within the message **5130** may be a value indicating a degree of inductive coupling or resonance coupling

33

for power transmission between the wireless power transmitter **100** and the electronic device **200**.

The wireless power transmitter **100** may receive a response message to the detection signal to find the electronic device **200**, and then extend the digital detection process to enter the identification and configuration state **630**. In other words, the wireless power transmitter **100** maintains the power signal at a specific operating point subsequent to finding the electronic device **200** to receive a power control message required in the identification and configuration state **630**.

However, if the wireless power transmitter **100** is not able to find the electronic device **200** to which power can be transferred, then the operation phase of the wireless power transmitter **100** will be returned to the selection state **610**.

3) Identification and Configuration State

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the identification and configuration state **630** may receive identification information and/or configuration information transmitted by the electronic device **200**, thereby controlling power transmission to be effectively carried out.

The electronic device **200** in the identification and configuration state **630** may transmit a power control message including its own identification information. For this purpose, the electronic device **200**, for instance, may transmit an identification packet **5200** including a message indicating the identification information of the electronic device **200** as illustrated in FIG. 16A. The packet **5200** may include a header **5220** for notifying a packet indicating identification information and a message **5230** including the identification information of the electronic device. The message **5230** may include information (**5231** and **5232**) indicating a version of the contract for contactless power transfer, information **5233** for identifying a manufacturer of the electronic device **200**, information **5234** indicating the presence or absence of an extended device identifier, and a basic device identifier **5235**. Furthermore, if it is displayed that an extended device identifier exists in the information **5234** indicating the presence or absence of an extended device identifier, then an extended identification packet **5300** including the extended device identifier as illustrated in FIG. 16B will be transmitted in a separate manner. The packet **5300** may include a header **5320** for notifying a packet indicating an extended device identifier and a message **5330** including the extended device identifier. When the extended device identifier is used as described above, information based on the manufacturer's identification information **5233**, the basic device identifier **5235** and the extended device identifier **5330** will be used to identify the electronic device **200**.

The electronic device **200** may transmit a power control message including information on expected maximum power in the identification and configuration state **630**. To this end, the electronic device **200**, for instance, may transmit a configuration packet **5400** as illustrated in FIG. 17. The packet may include a header **5420** for notifying that it is a configuration packet and a message **5430** including information on the expected maximum power. The message **5430** may include power class **5431**, information **5432** on expected maximum power, an indicator **5433** indicating a method of determining a current of a main cell at the side of the wireless power transmitter, and the number **5434** of optional configuration packets. The indicator **5433** may indicate whether or not a current of the main cell at the side of the wireless power transmitter is determined as specified in the contract for wireless power transfer.

Meanwhile, the electronic device **200** according to the exemplary embodiments may transmit a power control message, which includes required power information thereof and

34

associated profile information, to the wireless power transmitter **100**. In some exemplary embodiments, the required power information related to the electronic device **200** or the profile information may be transmitted by being included in the configuration packet **5400** as illustrated in FIG. 17. Alternatively, the required power information related to the electronic device **200** or the profile information may be transmitted by being included in a separate packet for configuration.

On the other hand, the wireless power transmitter **100** may generate a power transfer contract which is used for power charging with the electronic device **200** based on the identification information and/or configuration information. The power transfer contract may include the limits of parameters determining a power transfer characteristic in the power transfer state **640**.

The wireless power transmitter **100** may terminate the identification and configuration state **630** and return to the selection state **610** prior to entering the power transfer state **640**. For instance, the wireless power transmitter **100** may terminate the identification and configuration state **630** to find another electronic device that can receive power in a wireless manner.

4) Power Transfer State

The wireless power transmitter **100** in the power transfer state **640** transmits power to the electronic device **200**.

The wireless power transmitter **100** may receive a power control message from the electronic device **200** while transferring power, and control a characteristic of the power applied to the transmitting coil in response to the received power control message. For example, the power control message used to control a characteristic of the power applied to the transmitting coil may be included in a control error packet **5500** as illustrated in FIG. 18. The packet **5500** may include a header **5520** for notifying that it is a control error packet and a message **5530** including a control error value. The wireless power transmitter **100** may control the power applied to the transmitting coil according to the control error value. In other words, a current applied to the transmitting coil may be controlled so as to be maintained if the control error value is "0", reduced if the control error value is a negative value, and increased if the control error value is a positive value.

The wireless power transmitter **100** may monitor parameters within a power transfer contract generated based on the identification information and/or configuration information in the power transfer state **640**. As a result of monitoring the parameters, if power transmission to the electronic device **200** violates the limits included in the power transfer contract, then the wireless power transmitter **100** may cancel the power transmission and return to the selection state **610**.

The wireless power transmitter **100** may terminate the power transfer state **640** based on a power control message transferred from the electronic device **200**.

For example, if the charging of a battery has been completed while charging the battery using power transferred by the electronic device **200**, then a power control message for requesting the suspension of wireless power transfer will be transferred to the wireless power transmitter **100**. In this case, the wireless power transmitter **100** may receive a message for requesting the suspension of the power transmission, and then terminate wireless power transfer, and return to the selection state **610**.

For another example, the electronic device **200** may transfer a power control message for requesting renegotiation or reconfiguration to update the previously generated power transfer contract. The electronic device **200** may transfer a message for requesting the renegotiation of the power transfer contract when it is required a larger or smaller amount of

35

power than the currently transmitted power amount. In this case, the wireless power transmitter **100** may receive a message for requesting the renegotiation of the power transfer contract, and then terminate contactless power transfer, and return to the identification and configuration state **630**.

To this end, a message transmitted by the electronic device **200**, for instance, may be an end power transfer packet **5600** as illustrated in FIG. **19**. The packet **5600** may include a header **5620** for notifying that it is an end power transfer packet and a message **5630** including an end power transfer code indicating the cause of the suspension. The end power transfer code may indicate any one of charge complete, internal fault, over temperature, over voltage, over current, battery failure, reconfigure, no response, and unknown error.

Wireless Power Transfer in Many-to-One Communication

Hereinafter, a wireless power transfer in a many-to-one communication will be described.

Especially, the technology disclosed herein is a wireless (contactless) power transfer method associated with a wireless power control method, namely, a method for controlling power transferred from a wireless power transmitter for optimal power transfer when a plurality of wireless power receivers are present.

First, the many-to-one communication may indicate a method in which one wireless power transmitter (Tx) communicates with a plurality of wireless power receivers (Rx).

The many-to-one communication may be implemented by a unidirectional communication method and a bidirectional communication method.

The unidirectional communication may be a method in which only a wireless power receiver transmits a required message to a wireless power transmitter. To this end, the wireless power receiver may modulate a wireless power signal, which has been formed by the wireless power transmitter, to transmit a required message (or packet) to the wireless power transmitter.

The bidirectional communication may be a method in which both the wireless power transmitter and the wireless power receiver are able to exchange required messages with each other. Here, each of the wireless power transmitter and the wireless power receiver may include a modulation/demodulation unit, and may modulate the wireless power signal through the modulation/demodulation unit such that the required message can be included in a wireless power signal.

In view of a wireless power transfer, the power control method may indicate a method for controlling a quantity (amount) of power transmitted by the wireless power transmitter based on a control error.

The control error may be generated based on various references. For example, the control error may indicate a value obtained by subtracting a quantity of power, which a wireless power receiver is actually receiving from a wireless power transmitter, from a quantity of power desired by the wireless power receiver. In addition, it may be obvious to a person skilled in the art that the control error can be generated based on various references.

FIG. **20A** illustrates the wireless power transfer method (or wireless power controlling method) based on the control error in a one-to-one communication.

Referring to FIG. **20A**, one wireless power transmitter Tx is transmitting a wireless power signal, which has a resonant frequency of f_0 , to one wireless power receiver Rx.

In this case, the wireless power receiver Rx may detect (or generate), as a control error, a value obtained by subtracting a quantity of power, which it is actually receiving, from a target quantity of power (or a quantity of power that the wireless power receiver desires to receive).

36

The wireless power receiver Rx may transmit the control error to the wireless power transmitter Tx.

The wireless power transmitter Tx may control the quantity of wireless power, which is transferred to the wireless power receiver, based on the control error.

For example, the wireless power transmitter Tx may control the quantity of wireless power such that the control error can be lower than a specific value (for example, 1). Also, the wireless power transmitter Tx may control the quantity of wireless power such that the control error can be converged into '0' (or a value close to '0').

The control of the quantity of wireless power may be implemented by adjusting (or setting) a transmission parameter of the wireless power signal formed by the wireless power transmitter Tx.

For example, the transmission parameter may be a frequency (or resonant frequency) of the wireless power signal. The wireless power transmitter Tx may adjust the quantity of wireless power transferred by adjusting the frequency of the wireless power signal.

FIG. **20B** is an exemplary view illustrating a wireless power controlling method in a many-to-one communication.

Referring to FIG. **20B**, one wireless power transmitter Tx may transfer power in a wireless manner to a plurality of wireless power receivers Rx1 to Rx3 by generating (forming) a wireless power signal having a resonant frequency of f_0 .

As illustrated in FIG. **20A**, the plurality of wireless power receivers Rx1 to Rx3 may receive power in a wireless manner by receiving the wireless power signal from the wireless power transmitter Tx, and detect a control error to transmit to the wireless power transmitter Tx.

Here, the wireless power transmitter Tx should control the respective quantities of wireless power with respect to the plurality of wireless power receivers Rx1 to Rx3 based on control errors (totally three control error information) acquired from the plurality of wireless power receivers Rx1 to Rx3, respectively.

Here, if the quantity of wireless power is controlled based on a control error acquired from only one wireless power receiver (for example, Rx1), the control error for the Rx1 may be adjustable, but the control errors for the other wireless power receivers Rx2 and Rx3 may not appropriately be adjusted.

Hereinafter, a wireless power transfer method (or a wireless power controlling method) in a many-to-one communication will be described with reference to FIGS. **21** to **29**.

Description of Wireless Power Transmitter According to Exemplary Embodiments

The wireless power transmitter according to exemplary embodiments disclosed herein may include a power transmission unit to transmit a wireless power signal and acquire control errors from a plurality of wireless power receivers, which receive the wireless power signal, and a controller to detect a transmission parameter corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the acquired control errors and control the power transfer unit to transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

FIG. **21** is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a wireless power transmitter in accordance with exemplary embodiments.

Also, FIG. **21** is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power transmitter further including constituent elements in addition to the configuration illustrated in FIG. **2A**.

37

Referring to FIG. 21, the wireless power transmitter 100 may include a power transmission unit (or wireless power transmission unit) 110 and a controller 180, both supporting at least one of the inductive coupling method and the resonance coupling method.

In addition to them, in order to control a quantity of wireless power transferred, the wireless power transmitter 100 may further include a power supply unit 190, a sensing unit 120, a communication unit 130, an output unit 140, and a memory 150.

In addition to those elements, the wireless power transmitter 100 may further include various constituent elements for performing a function of controlling the quantity of wireless power.

Hereinafter, each constituent element will be described.

The power transmission unit 110 may transmit a wireless power signal, and acquire a control error from a wireless power receiver 200 which has received the wireless power signal.

The wireless power receiver 200 may include plurality of receivers (or a plurality of wireless power receivers).

The power transmission unit 110 may acquire the control error in various manners.

For example, the power transmission unit 110 may sequentially acquire control errors, which correspond to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, respectively, from the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

Here, the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit the control errors to the wireless power transmitter 100 via time slots respectively allocated thereto.

Here, the time slot may be formed by dividing a time section for transmission of the wireless power signal by a time axis so as to be allocated to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may be generated based on at least one of a value obtained by subtracting an actually received amount of power from a target amount of power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side current from a target receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, a value obtained by subtracting transmission efficiency upon actually receiving wireless power from a target transmission efficiency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, and a value obtained by subtracting a transmission gain upon actually receiving wireless power from a target transmission gain corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

Here, the transmission efficiency may be a ratio between transmission power of the wireless power transmitter and reception power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

Also, the transmission gain may be a ratio between a transmitting side voltage corresponding to the wireless power transmitter and a receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

In addition, the reception power may be detected based on a receiving side voltage and a receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

38

In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit a packet, which includes a power control message, to the wireless power transmitter.

Here, the control error may be transmitted to the wireless power transmitter by being included in the packet, which includes the power control message.

The packet including the power control message may be generated as the wireless power signal is modulated by the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

The controller 180 may perform various functions for performing a control function for wireless power, which is transmitted by adjusting a transmission parameter of the wireless power signal.

For example, in order to perform the wireless power control function, the controller 180 may control the power transmission unit 110, the sensing unit 120, the communication unit 130, the output unit 140, the memory 150 and the power supply unit 190.

The controller 180 may be implemented with various forms. For example, the controller 180 may be implemented a separate module from the power transmission control unit 112 within the power transmission unit 110, which has been described with reference to FIG. 2, or a single module.

In exemplary embodiments, the controller 180 may detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, respectively, based on the acquired control errors.

The transmission parameter may be a parameter associated with the wireless power signal formed by the wireless power transmitter 100.

For example, the transmission parameter may be at least one of a frequency, an amplitude and a phase of the wireless power signal, or a time interval for transmission of the wireless power signal.

Also, the controller 180 may control the power transmission unit 110 to transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission powers.

In one exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameter may be a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

Here, the controller 180 may periodically change the frequency of the wireless power signal into a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

Also, the controller 180 may transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 by forming the wireless power signal using the periodically changed transmission frequency.

In one exemplary embodiment, the controller 180 may detect an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 based on the detected transmission parameters.

Here, the controller 180 may transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

In one exemplary embodiment, the optimal transmission parameter may be generated by processing the detected transmission parameters in a statistical manner.

Here, the statistical manner may be a method based on at least one of average, variance and standard deviation of the transmission parameters.

39

In one exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameters may be transmission frequencies corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

In this case, the controller 180 may set a weight for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 based on the control errors or the transmission parameters.

The controller 180 may set a transmission time interval for each of the plurality of transmission power receivers 200 based on the weights.

The controller 180 may thus transfer power in a wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequencies corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, respectively, for the respectively set transmission time intervals.

Here, the weight may be proportional to the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

For example, if it is assumed that the control error of a first wireless power receiver is 10 and the control error of a second wireless power receiver is 30, the wireless power transmitter 100 (or the controller 180) may set the weight of the first wireless power receiver to 1 and the weight of the second wireless power receiver to 2.

Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may perform a setting operation in such a manner that a time for forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequency corresponding to the second wireless power receiver is three times longer than a time for forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequency corresponding to the second wireless power receiver.

The controller 180 may decide the transmission parameter such that the control error of each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 can be less than a reference value.

Also, the controller 180 may decide the transmission parameter such that a control error value of a specific wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers does not increase more than a specific value.

The transmission parameter may be decided based on at least one of whether or not a damage is caused on the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) or whether or not the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) are able to wirelessly receive power from the wireless power transmitter.

This is because the wireless power transmitter 100 should satisfy a condition in which the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 can stably receive power in a wireless manner while performing the wireless power control function.

In one exemplary embodiment, the wireless power transmitter 100 (or the controller 180) may request for transmission of the control error from each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

The control error transmission request may be performed at an initial step of performing the wireless power control function or in response to a new environmental change during wireless power transfer.

For example, the control error transmission request may be performed when the control error is more than a reference value, when a new wireless power receiver is placed in a specific area, when the number of wireless power receivers existing in the specific area changes, when a position of at least one wireless power receiver existing in the specific area changes, and when there is a periodically received request or a request received from the wireless power receiver.

Here, the specific area may be an area through which the wireless power signal passes or an area on which the wireless power receiver can be sensed.

40

FIG. 22 is an exemplary view illustrating a method in which a wireless power transmitter requests for a control error and acquires the control error.

Referring to FIG. 22, the wireless power transmitter 100 may transmit a control error request (control error req.) for acquiring a control error to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200. This may be referred to as a power control mode of the wireless power transmitter 100.

Here, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit its own control error to the wireless power transmitter via each allocated time slot.

The time slot may be formed by dividing a time section for transmission of the wireless power signal by a time axis so as to be allocated to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

For example, a first wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot₁, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot₁.

Also, for example, a second wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot₂, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot₂.

Similarly, a maxth wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot_{max}, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot_{max}.

Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may adjust power using only the control error transmitted only on the first time slot (time-slot₁), thereby finding a resonant frequency for optimizing power transmission efficiency with respect to a specific receiver (or the first wireless power receiver).

Here, the Wireless power transmitter (or WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER APPARATUS) may check whether divergence of control error occurs (or has occurred) on one or more receiver rather than the specific receiver (or may check whether control error value of on one or more receiver rather than the specific receiver does not increase more than a specific value more than a specific value).

Next, the wireless power transmitter 100 may adjust power using only the control error transmitted only on the second time slot (time-slot₂), thereby finding a resonant frequency for optimizing power transmission efficiency with respect to another receiver (or the second wireless power receiver).

Also, here, the Wireless power transmitter (or WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER APPARATUS) may check whether divergence of control error occurs (or has occurred) on one or more receiver rather than the another receiver (or may check whether control error value of on one or more receiver rather than the another receiver does not increase more than a specific value more than a specific value).

The wireless power transmitter 100 may repeat the processes as many times as the number of receivers (or the plurality of wireless power receivers).

Afterwards, the wireless power transmitter 100 may calculate an average of optimal resonant frequencies for respective receivers (or the plurality of wireless power receivers), and change a resonant frequency of the wireless power signal for transferring power to each receiver to the average frequency.

Accordingly, power may be uniformly supplied to every receiver, and this may optimize transmission efficiency in many-to-one communication.

In one exemplary embodiment, the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may include a first wireless power receiver and a second wireless power receiver.

Here, the controller 180 may acquire a first control error via a time slot corresponding to the first wireless power receiver,

41

so as to detect a first transmission parameter corresponding to the first wireless power receiver.

Also, the controller **180** may acquire a second control error via a time slot corresponding to the second wireless power receiver, so as to detect a second transmission parameter corresponding to the second wireless power receiver.

The controller **180** may thus transfer power in a wireless manner to the first and second wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the first and second transmission parameters.

In one exemplary embodiment, the power transmission unit **110** may sequentially acquire a control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers from the plurality of wireless power receivers.

Here, the controller **180** may detect a transmission parameter corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers **200**, based on the sequentially acquired control errors.

The controller **180** may detect an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters.

Also, the controller **180** may control the power transmission unit **110** to transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers **200** by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

Here, the optimal transmission parameter may be decided as an average value of the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers **200**, respectively.

Also, in one exemplary embodiment, the control error may be generated based on a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each the plurality of wireless power receivers **200**.

Here, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers **200** may transmit a packet including information related to the control error to the wireless power transmitter.

The packet may be generated by modulating the wireless power signal by the plurality of wireless power receivers.

The sensing unit **120** may be configured to include a sensor for sensing a position of the wireless power receiver **200**. The position information sensed by the sensing unit **120** may be used by the power conversion unit **111** to efficiently transfer power.

For example, in the wireless power transfer which supports the inductive coupling method, the sensing unit **120** may operate as a position detection unit. The position information detected by the sensing unit **120** may be used to move or rotate the transmitting coil **111a** within the power conversion unit **111**.

For example, the wireless power transmitter **100**, which includes the aforementioned one or more transmitting coils, may decide coils of the one or more transmitting coils, which may be placed in an inductive coupling relation or a resonance coupling relation with receiving coils of the plurality of wireless power receivers **200**, based on the position information related to the wireless power receivers **200**.

Meanwhile, the sensing unit **120** may monitor whether or not the wireless power receiver **200** accesses a chargeable area. The access or non-access sensing function of the sensing unit **120** may be performed separate from or in combination with a function that the power transmission control unit **112** within the power transmission unit **110** detects access or non-access of the wireless power receiver **200**.

The communication unit **130** may perform wired or wireless data communications with the wireless power receiver

42

200. The communication unit **130** may include an electronic component for at least any one of Bluetooth™, Zigbee, Ultra Wide Band (UWB), Wireless USB, Near Field Communication (NFC), and Wireless LAN.

The output unit **140** may include at least one of a display unit **141** and an audio output unit (or SOUND OUTPUT UNIT) **142**. The display unit **141** may include at least one of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a thin film transistor-liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), an organic light-emitting diode (OLED), a flexible display, and a three-dimensional (3D) display. The display unit **141** may display a charging state under the control of the control unit (or Controller) **180**.

The memory **150** may include at least one storage medium of a flash memory type, a hard disk type, a multimedia card micro type, a card type memory (e.g., SD or XD memory), a random access memory (RAM), a static random access memory (SRAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a programmable read-only memory (PROM), a magnetic memory, a magnetic disk, an optical disk, and the like. The wireless power transmitter **100** may operate in association with a web storage performing the storage function of the memory **150** on the Internet. A program or commands performing the foregoing functions of the wireless power transmitter **100** may be stored in the memory **150**. The control unit (or Controller) **180** may perform the program or commands stored in the memory **150** to transmit power in a wireless manner. A memory controller (not shown) may be used to allow other constituent elements (e.g., control unit (or Controller) **180**) included in the wireless power transmitter **100** to access the memory **150**.

In the meantime, the wireless power transmitter **100** for setting a frequency in accordance with exemplary embodiments may be implemented in the form of a wireless power transmitter illustrated in FIG. 2A.

Wireless Power Transfer Method According to Exemplary Embodiments

A wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter, which transfers power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, in accordance with exemplary embodiments, may include acquiring control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and transferring power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

FIG. 23 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with exemplary embodiments.

Referring to FIG. 23, the wireless power transfer method (or wireless power control method) in accordance with the exemplary embodiments may include the following steps.

First, a wireless power transmitter may acquire control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively (S110).

The wireless power transmitter may detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors (S120).

Next, the wireless power transmitter may transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers

by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters (S130).

First Exemplary Embodiment

Transmission of Wireless Power Signal with Periodically Changed Frequency

The first exemplary embodiment may be implemented by part of or in combination of the configurations or steps included in the aforementioned exemplary embodiments, or in combination of the aforementioned exemplary embodiments. To describe the first exemplary embodiment disclosed in this specification, repetitive description will be omitted.

A wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter, which transfers power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, in accordance with a first exemplary embodiment, may include acquiring control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and transferring power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

Also, in accordance with the first exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameter is a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers. The transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include periodically changing the frequency of the wireless power signal to a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal using the periodically changed transmission frequency.

FIG. 24 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method (or wireless power control method) in accordance with a first exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 24, a wireless power transfer method in accordance with a first exemplary embodiment may include the following steps.

First, a wireless power transmitter may acquire control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively (S110).

The wireless power transmitter may detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors (S120).

Next, the wireless power transmitter may periodically change the frequency of the wireless power signal into a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers (S210).

The wireless power transmitter may transfer power in the wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal using the periodically changed frequency (S220).

FIG. 25 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method (or wireless power control method) in accordance with the first exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 25, for wirelessly supplying power to the plurality of wireless power receiver 200, the wireless power transmitter 100 may request information related to the control error from each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

Each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit the control error thereof to the wireless power transmitter 100 through each allocated time slot.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission parameter for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 based on information related to the control error for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

In accordance with the first exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameter may be the frequency of the wireless power signal (or resonant frequency).

For example, the wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission frequency f_0 , on which the control error for the first wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1).

The wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission frequency f_1 , on which the control error for the second wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1).

The wireless power transmitter 100 may also decide a transmission frequency f_2 , on which the control error for the third wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1).

Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission time point and a transmission time interval for the wireless power signal with respect to the first wireless power receiver, the second wireless power receiver, and the third wireless power receiver.

Also, the wireless power transmitter 100 may supply power in a wireless manner to the first wireless power receiver by forming a wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f_0 for the first wireless power receiver, at a specific transmission time point and time interval.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may also supply power in a wireless manner to the second wireless power receiver by forming a wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f_1 for the second wireless power receiver, at another specific transmission time point and time interval.

In addition, the wireless power transmitter 100 may supply power in a wireless manner to the third wireless power receiver by forming a wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f_2 for the third wireless power receiver, at another specific transmission time point and time interval.

Accordingly, the wireless power transmitter 100 may acquire uniform transmission efficiency with respect to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal, which is optimized for the first, second, and third wireless power receivers, respectively.

Second Exemplary Embodiment

Formation of Wireless Power Signal Through Statistical Manner

The second exemplary embodiment may be implemented by part of or in combination of the configurations or steps included in the aforementioned exemplary embodiments, or in combination of the aforementioned exemplary embodiments. To describe the second exemplary embodiment disclosed in this specification, repetitive description will be omitted.

A wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter, which transfers power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, in accordance with a second exemplary embodiment, may include acquiring control errors

corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and transferring power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

In accordance with the second exemplary embodiment, the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include detecting an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters, and transferring power in the wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

In accordance with the second exemplary embodiment, the optimal transmission parameter may be generated by processing the detected transmission parameters in a statistical manner.

Here, the statistical manner may be a method based on at least one of an average, variance and standard deviation of the transmission parameters.

FIG. 26 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with a second exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 26, the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the second exemplary embodiment may include the following steps.

First, a wireless power transmitter may acquire control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively (S110).

The wireless power transmitter may detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors (S120).

Next, the wireless power transmitter may detect an average value of the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers as an optimal transmission parameter (S310).

The wireless power transmitter may transfer power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter (S320).

FIG. 27 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the second exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 27, the wireless power transmitter 100 may transmit a control error request (control error req.) for acquiring a control error to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200. This may be referred to as a power control mode of the wireless power transmitter 100.

Here, each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit its own control error to the wireless power transmitter via each allocated time slot.

The time slot may be formed by dividing a time section for transmission of the wireless power signal by a time axis so as to be allocated to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

For example, a first wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot1, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot1.

Also, for example, a second wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot2, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot2.

Similarly, a \max^{th} wireless power receiver may be allocated with a time-slot $_{max}$, and transmit its control error to the wireless power transmitter for a time interval of the time-slot $_{max}$.

Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may adjust power using only the control error transmitted only on the first time slot (time-slot $_1$), thereby finding a resonant frequency f0 for optimizing power transmission efficiency with respect to a specific receiver (or the first wireless power receiver).

Next, the wireless power transmitter 100 may adjust power using only the control error transmitted only on the second time slot (time-slot $_2$), thereby finding a resonant frequency f1 for optimizing power transmission efficiency with respect to another receiver (or the second wireless power receiver).

The wireless power transmitter 100 may repeat the processes as many times as the number of receivers (or the plurality of wireless power receivers).

For example, when the number of wireless power receivers is max, the aforementioned processes may be repeatedly performed up to the \max^{th} receiver.

Afterwards, the wireless power transmitter 100 may calculate an average of optimal resonant frequencies for respective receivers (or the plurality of wireless power receivers), and change a resonant frequency (fnew) capable of transmitting a wireless power signal to each receiver to the average frequency (favg).

Accordingly, power may be uniformly supplied to every receiver, and this may optimize transmission efficiency in many-to-one communication.

Third Exemplary Embodiment

Wireless Power Control Through Time Allocation

The third exemplary embodiment may be implemented by part of or in combination of the configurations or steps included in the aforementioned exemplary embodiments, or in combination of the aforementioned exemplary embodiments. To describe the third exemplary embodiment disclosed in this specification, repetitive description will be omitted.

A wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter, which transmits wireless power by forming a wireless power signal, in accordance with a third exemplary embodiment, may include acquiring control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors, and transferring power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

Also, in accordance with the third exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameter is a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers. The transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters may include setting a weight for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters, setting a transmission time interval for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the weights, and transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power transmitters for the set transmission time intervals.

47

In accordance with the third exemplary embodiment, the weight may be proportional to the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

The transmission parameter may be decided as a value that a control error value of a specific wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers does not increase more than a specific value.

The transmission parameter may be decided based on at least one of whether or not a damage is caused on the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) or whether or not the plurality of wireless power receivers (or at least one of the plurality of wireless power receivers) are able to receive power in a wireless manner from the wireless power transmitter.

FIG. 28 is a flowchart illustrating a wireless power transfer method in accordance with a third exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 28, the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the third exemplary embodiment may include the following steps.

First, a wireless power transmitter may acquire control errors corresponding to a plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively (S110).

The wireless power transmitter may detect transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the acquired control errors (S120).

Next, the wireless power transmitter may transfer power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal having a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers for the set transmission time interval (S420).

FIG. 29 is an exemplary view illustrating the wireless power transfer method in accordance with the third exemplary embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 29, for wirelessly supplying power to the plurality of wireless power receivers 200, the wireless power transmitter 100 may request information related to a control error from each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

Each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 may transmit the control error thereof to the wireless power transmitter 100 through a time slot allocated thereto.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission parameter for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 based on information related to the control error for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200.

In accordance with the first exemplary embodiment, the transmission parameter may be the frequency of the wireless power signal and a transmission time interval thereof.

For example, the wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission frequency f0, on which a control error for the first wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1), and a transmission time interval T1.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission frequency f1, on which a control error for the second wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1), and a transmission time interval T2.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may also decide a transmission frequency f2, on which a control error for the third wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers 200 is less than a specific value (for example, 1), and a transmission time interval T3.

Here, the wireless power transmitter 100 may decide a transmission time point for the wireless power signal with

48

respect to the first wireless power receiver, the second wireless power receiver, and the third wireless power receiver.

Also, the wireless power transmitter 100 may supply power in the wireless manner to the first wireless power receiver by forming the wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f0 for the first wireless power receiver, at a specific transmission time point for the transmission time interval T1.

The wireless power transmitter 100 may also supply power in the wireless manner to the second wireless power receiver by forming the wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f1 for the second wireless power receiver, at another specific transmission time point for the transmission time interval T2.

In addition, the wireless power transmitter 100 may supply power in the wireless manner to the third wireless power receiver by forming the wireless power signal, which has the transmission frequency f2 for the third wireless power receiver, at another specific transmission time point for the transmission time interval T3.

Accordingly, the wireless power transmitter 100 may acquire uniform transmission efficiency with respect to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal, which is optimized for the first, second, and third wireless power receivers, respectively.

The foregoing method may be implemented in a recording medium readable by a computer or its similar devices by employing, for example, software, hardware or some combinations thereof.

For a hardware implementation, the embodiments described herein may be implemented by using at least any one of application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), digital signal processors (DSPs), digital signal processing devices (DSPDs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), processors, controllers, micro-controllers, microprocessors, other electronic units designed to perform the functions described herein. For example, the foregoing methods may be implemented by the control unit (or Controller) 180 or power transmission control unit 112 in the wireless power transmitter 100, or implemented by the controller 280 or Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) 292 in the electronic device 200.

For a software implementation, the embodiments such as procedures and functions disclosed herein may be implemented with separate software modules. Each of the software modules may perform one or more of the functions and operations described herein. Software codes may be implemented by using a software application written in a suitable programming language. The software codes may be stored in the memory 150 in the wireless power transmitter 100, and implemented by the control unit (or Controller) 180 or the power transmission control unit 112, and similarly, stored in the memory 260 in the electronic device 200, and implemented by the controller 280 or the Power reception control unit (or POWER RECEIVING CONTROL UNIT) 292.

The scope of the invention will not be limited to the embodiments disclosed herein, and thus various modifications, variations, and improvements can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit of the invention, and within the scope of the appended claims.

49

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless power transfer method for a wireless power transmitter which transfers power in a wireless manner by forming a wireless power signal, the method comprising:

detecting a plurality of wireless power receivers;

acquiring control errors corresponding to a first control error value and a second control error value from the detected plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively;

detecting transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the first control error value and the second control error value; and

transferring power in the wireless manner to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters,

wherein the first control error value is received from a first wireless power receiver in a first time duration which is allocated to the first wireless power receiver and the second control error value is received from a second wireless power receiver in a second time duration which is allocated to the second wireless power receiver.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers is generated based on at least one of a value obtained by subtracting an actually received amount of power from a target amount of power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side current from a target receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, a value obtained by subtracting transmission efficiency upon actually receiving power in a wireless manner from a target transmission efficiency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and a value obtained by subtracting a transmission gain upon actually receiving power in a wireless manner from a target transmission gain corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the transmission efficiency is a ratio between transmission power of the wireless power transmitter and reception power corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers,

wherein the transmission gain is a ratio between a transmitting side voltage corresponding to the wireless power transmitter and a receiving side voltage corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and

wherein the reception power is detected based on a receiving side voltage and a receiving side current corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of wireless power receivers transmits a packet to the wireless power transmitter, the packet including a power control message,

wherein the control error is transmitted to the wireless power transmitter by being included in the packet, the packet including the power control message, and

wherein the packet including the power control message is generated by modulating the wireless power signal by each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is at least one of a frequency, an amplitude and a phase of the wireless power signal, and a time interval for transmission of the wireless power signal.

50

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers,

wherein the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters comprises:

periodically changing the frequency of the wireless power signal to a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers; and transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal using the periodically changed transmission frequency.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters comprises:

detecting an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters; and

transferring power in the wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the optimal transmission parameter is generated by processing the detected transmission parameters in a statistical manner.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the statistical manner is a method based on at least one of an average, variance and standard deviation of the transmission parameters.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is a transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers,

wherein the transferring of the power in the wireless manner based on the detected transmission parameters comprises:

setting a weight for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the control errors or the detected transmission parameters;

setting a transmission time interval for each of the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the weights; and

transferring power in the wireless manner by forming the wireless power signal having the transmission frequency corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power transmitters for the set transmission time interval.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameters are detected based on a first weight and a second weight proportional to the first control error value and the second control error value.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is decided as a value that the control error of each of the plurality of wireless power receivers is less than a reference value.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is decided as a value that a control error value of a specific wireless power receiver of the plurality of wireless power receivers does not increase more than a specific value.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission parameter is decided based on at least one of whether or not a damage is caused on the plurality of wireless power receivers or whether or not the plurality of wireless power receivers are able to wirelessly receive power from the wireless power transmitter.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a control error transmission request to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the control error transmission request is transmitted when the control error is more than a reference value, when a new wireless power receiver is placed in a specific area, when the number of

51

wireless power receivers existing in the specific area changes, when a position of at least one wireless power receiver existing in the specific area changes, and when there is a periodically received request or a request received from the wireless power receiver,

wherein the specific area is an area through which the wireless power signal passes or an area on which the wireless power receiver is sensed.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of wireless power receivers transmits the control error to the wireless power transmitter via each time slot corresponding thereto,

wherein the time slot is formed by dividing a time section for transmission of the wireless power signal by a time axis so as to be allocated to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

18. The method of claim 17,

wherein the wireless power transmitter acquires a first control error value via a time slot corresponding to the first wireless power receiver, so as to detect a first transmission parameter corresponding to the first wireless power receiver,

wherein the wireless power transmitter acquires a second control error value via a time slot corresponding to the second wireless power receiver, so as to detect a second transmission parameter corresponding to the second wireless power receiver, and

wherein the wireless power transmitter transfers power in the wireless manner to the first and second wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the first and second transmission parameters.

19. A wireless power transmitter comprising:

a power conversion unit configured to detect a plurality of wireless power receivers, receive a first control error value from a first wireless power receiver in a first time duration which is allocated to the first wireless power receiver and receive a second control error value from a second wireless power receiver in a second time duration which is allocated to the second wireless power receiver; and

a controller configured to acquire control errors corresponding to the first control error value and the second control error value from the detected plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, detect transmission

52

parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the first control error value and the second control error value, and control the power conversion unit to transmit power in a wireless manner to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the detected transmission parameters.

20. The transmitter of claim 19, wherein the controller sequentially acquires the control errors from the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, the control error corresponding to each of the plurality of wireless power receivers, and

wherein the controller detects the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively, based on the sequentially acquired control errors, detects an optimal transmission parameter corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers based on the detected transmission parameters, and controls the power transmission unit to transmit power in a wireless manner to the plurality of wireless power receivers by forming the wireless power signal based on the optimal transmission parameter.

21. The transmitter of claim 20, wherein the optimal transmission parameter is decided as an average value of the transmission parameters corresponding to the plurality of wireless power receivers, respectively.

22. The transmitter of claim 20, wherein the control error is generated based on a value obtained by subtracting an actually received receiving side voltage from a target receiving side voltage corresponding to each the plurality of wireless power receivers,

wherein each of the plurality of wireless power receivers transmits a packet to the wireless power transmitter, the packet including information related to the control error, and

wherein the packet is generated by modulating the wireless power signal by each of the plurality of wireless power receivers.

23. The transmitter of claim 19, wherein the controller further detects transmission parameters based on a first weight and a second weight proportional to the first control error value and the second control error value.

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